



MOTHERCARE FUTURE AT RISK

By John Corser

THE future of the Mothercare store at the Merry Hill shopping centre has been thrown into doubt.

The shop, at the complex in Brierley Hill, was not on the list of 50 of the firm's underperforming stores lined up for closure.

But its fate and that of 300 Mothercare staff across the country was put up in the air after it emerged that a key plank of the retailer's restructuring plan was rejected by creditors.

Mothercare said this week that rent reduction proposals for Children's World, a subsidiary that houses 21 of its stores, including that at Merry Hill, had been knocked back by landlords following a vote last week.

The retailer is now considering "all options" for the unit, including shutting the outlets, which employ a total of 336 people.

It came just days after Mothercare was given the green light to swing the axe on the 50 underperforming stores, including Early Learning Centre fascias, in a move that will see 800 jobs put at risk. Those to close include Walsall and Stafford where 30 jobs are affected.

Landlords

Those store closures will be carried out through a Company Voluntary Arrangement – a move which allows companies to close loss-making shops and secure rental discounts.

On Friday, Mothercare said it had received the backing of creditors, including its landlords, to press ahead with the CVA.

However, it did not, at the time indicate that plans for Children's World had been rejected by 73.3 per cent of creditors, including landlords. It had required 75 per cent of the vote.

The store closure programme is part of a wide-ranging restructuring plan that will also see Mothercare bag a re-financing package worth up to £113.5 million.

Mothercare chairman Clive Whitley said: "KPMG have confirmed the votes relating to Mothercare UK and Early Learning Centre CVA's passed by a clear majority. However it is now clear that the CVA of Children's World was not carried by creditors by a narrow margin. This will neither unsettle the UK restructuring and refinancing nor jeopardise our future transformation plans, which are already under way."

"As a board we are now considering our next steps with respect to Children's World."

Mothercare continues to trade as a going concern under the control of its directors. All other details as set out in announcement of 1 June 2018 remain unchanged.

BLIND DAVE RUNS UP SUPPORT FOR ROAD RACE



Dave Heeley and Seamus with Alan Bowler, Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, right and Big Pet Store manager Darren Burke

BLIND Dave Heeley is taking part in this year's Black Country Road Run, joining West Midlands Mayor Andy Street and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

The 10km and family fun run takes place in Halesowen on July 1. It is organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

Mr Heeley, from West Bromwich, will be taking part for the seventh year. He posed for a picture outside sponsors The Big Pet Store

this week. He said: "It's a race I always enjoy doing and the only one I dress up in costume. This year I'm thinking about going as a leprechaun with a friend."

Mr Heeley last took part in the Sutton Coldfield 10km, and before that the Birmingham 10km. He plans to run the 10km, which starts at 10am, and the family fun run at 11am.

He said: "The best thing about the race is the ice cream parlour halfway round." Also

taking part are Mr Street and Mr Morris. Mr Street said: "I am very much looking forward to taking part in this event which promises to be a great occasion."

"Not only will it be a great event for runners but will also raise money for many good causes in the Black Country and beyond."

The race starts and finishes in Halesowen town centre. People can enter by visiting www.theblackcountryrun.com

COMEDY

Chase star Sinha headlines festival

THE Chase star Paul Sinha headlines the first-ever comedy festival at a Stourbridge pub tonight (Thursday).

Fitz Fest features 13 pro acts over four nights in a specially-constructed marquee at Katie Fitzgerald's in Wolaston.

Tonight's opening night is headlined by quiz champ Sinha. It will also feature Nick Page, a semi-finalist on this year's Britain's Got Talent.

Tickets still remain for the other nights, featuring Seann Walsh, Barbara Nice, the housewife character creation of Phoenix Nights star Janice Connolly, and popular Black Country comic Jonny Cole.

Compere, Dudley comic Wayne Beese, said: "The response has been phenomenal."

Tickets cost £15 per show or two shows at £25. See www.skiddle.com/e/13150821



Paul Sinha

ATTACK

Two are held after man is assaulted

A MAN was taken to hospital with serious head injuries after being attacked near the Mount Pleasant pub in King'swinford.

Police, paramedics and Midlands Air Ambulance were called to Cot Lane on Sunday at about 4.50pm. The man, in his 40s, remains serious but stable.

Two men, aged 31 and 23, have been arrested on suspicion of assault and remain in custody for questioning.

PLANNING

Flats bid at old pub

A FORMER pub is set to be converted into flats, under new plans. An application has been lodged to create four apartments at The Old Crown on Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill. The proposals will now be assessed by planning experts at Dudley Council.

INSIDE

Amy's back on the Strictly floor



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MP calling for rethink on travellers' site



Pat McFadden MP

CAMPAIGNERS have lost their fight to stop a 40-pitch travellers' site being built near their homes but have been thrown a lifeline by an MP who has asked the Government to call in the decision.

In a 5-4 vote, Dudley Council's planning committee approved a three-year travellers' site near Budden Road in Coseley. The proposal had sparked a 1,000-name petition and a barrage of complaints. Residents and businesses are unhappy about having the site on their doorstep.

Now Labour MP Pat McFadden,

whose Wolverhampton South East constituency includes Coseley, has written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to request that the council's decision is revisited.

Protester Tony Sheldon, of the 500-strong Coseley Focus Group, said: "We're all completely gutted because of the effort we've put into this campaign. But this decision was made by a Conservative-heavy committee and at least, with the Secretary of State involved, we stand a chance of being listened to."

Opponents of the scheme cited con-

tamination of the ground, which they claim was the council's own reason for refusing previous applications by sports clubs who wanted to set up there.

Coseley councillor Sue Ridney said: "The last application was in 2011 and no work has been done since then, so the contamination still exists. Whatever you think of travellers, it's wrong to put them on there."

The council argued that getting travellers off unauthorised sites costs around £150,000 a year. The cost of setting up a transit site is estimated at £280,000, so would save taxpayers' money.

£30m technology campus wins support



A BID for a new £30 million college campus in Dudley has been given the go-ahead by the Department for Education.

The creation of the Institute of Technology will help transform the town centre, bosses have said.

Proposals led by Dudley College will see land redeveloped in Tipton Road, near the planned Very Light Rail Innovation Centre.

Lowell Williams, the college's chief executive officer and chair of the board of Dudley Academies Trust, said: "I believe the proposal to create an Institute of Technology at the heart of Dudley is an ambitious vision whose time has come."

"I felt we had a very strong bid and I'm delighted we have been selected to take our proposal forward."

"Developing a technically skilled workforce and providing an even wider range of career pathways for the people of Dudley is what this bid is all about."

"The fact that other regional colleges have been successful too is particularly pleasing and it looks like further education colleges in the West Midlands are leading a renaissance in technical education."

Innovation

The bid was backed by other organisations including The University of Wolverhampton, Thomas Dudley, Fulcro and Dudley NHS.

Plans to establish the institute is part of the creation of an 'innovation park' in Dudley.

It one of only a small group of approved bidders across the country – and now needs final sign off by government before building can begin.

An artist's impression of the Institute of Technology which Dudley College bosses say could transform the town centre

Dudley North MP Ian Austin welcomed the news, saying: "Further investment in Dudley and the wider region is always welcome. I'm backing this bid all the way. Well done Dudley College."

The campus will provide hi-tech facilities for advanced level skills training in technology, according to bosses. It will provide progress routes from Dudley College's other skills training centres, Advance I and Advance II. The Innovation Park will

bring together a number of initiatives 'that would cluster research and innovation centres together including the Very Light Rail Innovation Centre'.

It will be built between the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo.

The second stage of the process to secure the final go-ahead for the project will begin in July with Government backing expected by the end of the year.

Other successful bids included proposals led by Solihull College and a joint bid from North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire Colleges.

Meanwhile, Dudley College of Technology is among 52 schools and colleges to have been named among the first T-level providers.

The T-levels are technical qualifications at A-level standard and have been described as the greatest shake-up of technical education for 70 years.

Housebuilder is helping troupe dance for England

A HOUSEBUILDER has given a £1,000 donation to help a Halesowen-based dance troupe represent England in an international competition in Spain this summer.

Jordon's School of Dance was chosen by Persimmon Homes Central to become one of its Community Champions.

The scheme invites local groups and charities to bid for a match-funded donation of up to £1,000.

It is the third year that dancers with the troupe have represented England in the dance World Cup competition. This year they will fly out to compete in Sitges, near Barcelona, from June 22 to 30, with school principals Donna and Joanne May.

Donna said: "In the first year, in Jersey, we won one gold and several silver and bronzes. Last year, in Germany, we won three golds and several silver and bronzes, so we really have our sights set on more medals."

"A total of 38 team members will compete in dances from solos, duets and trios to large groups. We have to raise a lot of money in order to compete – our costume bill alone is £15,000."

"We cannot thank Persimmon Homes enough."

Get creative for free in Coseley

A PROGRAMME of free Friday night activities has been organised in Coseley with the aim of creating a magazine

The creative events, open to all ages, are run by East Coseley Big Local at Mary Dermott Hall in Gough Road from 6.30pm to 8.30pm through to July 27.

The project continues tomorrow (Friday) with the Coseley Photo Walk. There will also be illustration, collage and poetry sessions.

East Coseley Big Local has been working with Beatfreeks, a youth organisation, on the community project. Big Local is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. There are 150 Big Local areas in England allocated £1 million each. East Coseley was selected in 2011. For more details see www.eastcoseleybiglocal.net/coseley-nights-are-back/

Art and dance at family fun festival

A COMMUNITY fun day is being held as part of a Festival of Learning.

Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Dudley Wood Road will host the event on June 23 from 11am to 2pm. It will include crafts, health advice, children's dancing and an art display.

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Changes on the buses as faster service introduced

A NEW, faster bus service will be launched later this year under new plans by National Express West Midlands.

The express service will run between Birmingham, City Hospital, Smethwick, Oldbury, Dudley and Wolverhampton. A new direct service and regular links between Halesowen and Russells Hall Hospital, and between Merry Hill and Gornal Wood, are also expected. The new routes and changes are expected to start from September 2.

Tom Stables, managing director for National Express West Midlands, said: "Our new Dudley network means faster and more frequent services for our Black Country customers. And it means we can bring our beautiful top-spec platinum bus services – with free wi-fi and USB charging – to Smethwick, Blackheath and Oldbury."

National Express West Midlands' Sandwell and Dudley low fare zone will still apply – with £3 for a day ticket and £1.50 for a child day ticket. An adult weekly travelcard for inside the zone is £11 and a child's weekly travelcard costs £7.

The low fare zone takes in Stourbridge, Merry Hill, Dudley, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Blackheath and Halesowen. The final draft of proposed changes can be found at nxbus.co.uk/dudley

Florist looking to bloom in contest

A STOURBRIDGE florist will be competing in the finals of a national floristry competition.

Laura Leong, 46, will showcase her skills in the final of Interflora's Florist of the Year contest, which celebrates excellence in floral design across the UK. The winner of July's competition will represent Great Britain and Ireland at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March 2019.

Laura, who has been a florist for 30 years and works at the Flower Basket, in Market Street, has entered numerous competitions at all levels since starting her career.

She is a two-time winner of Florist of the Year at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Park story walks

STORY walks will be held as part of a National Bookstart Week event in Stourbridge. Free picture books for youngsters and owl craft activities take place at Mary Stevens Park tomorrow (Friday) from noon to 2pm.

Beatles forerunners in festival date



The Quarrymen perform at Romstock

THE skiffle band which went on to become The Beatles will be the star attraction at a village's music festival this weekend.

Four of John Lennon's bandmates from the Quarrymen will be performing at the Romstock festival in Romsley, near Halesowen, on Saturday.

Lennon formed The Quarrymen in 1956, playing alongside close friends Colin Hanton, Chas Newby, John Dufflowe and Rod Davies.

Paul McCartney joined in 1957, and George Harrison in 1958, and following the change of line-up the band

later changed its name to The Beatles. Festival organiser Mark Moran said it had taken 18 months of painstaking work to get the original Quarrymen to perform at the festival, to be held in a field off St Kenelm's Road in the village, from 12pm to 8.30pm.

They will be taking part in a meet-and-greet sessions, and will answer questions from the audience, before going on to perform a 45-minute set.

Mark said he said he only got the band to perform after his daughter, who is at university in Liverpool, noticed a plaque on a house where the

Quarrymen used to rehearse. "I've always been a huge Beatles fan and it got me wondering whether The Quarrymen were still going," he said.

Rod Davies, who became friends with Lennon from the age of five when they attended the same Sunday School, was replaced by Paul McCartney. Rod and John were both pupils at Quarry Bank High School in Liverpool which gave the band its name.

Tickets for the festival are £20 on the day, or £15 in advance from the Co-op in Romsley. For under-16s tickets are £3, and under-fives go free.

Flats plan at former shops parade refused

PLANS to transform a Dudley shopping parade into more than 30 flats have been refused by council planners over a lack of affordable housing.

The application was to convert a building on High Street, near St Thomas's Church and the war memorial, into 33 apartments.

The scheme, which included car parking and an additional retail unit, proposed 10 two-bedroom flats, 20 one-bedroom flats and three studio flats.

The 1,000 sq ft site features shops on High Street, which would have formed part of a larger building backing onto King Street. The ground floor commercial space would have been remodelled allowing for three smaller commercial units instead of two larger existing units.

Consent had already been granted for 33 flats on the second floor – subject to conditions – but has yet to get off the ground.

Parade

Dudley Council's chief officer for regeneration and enterprise, Helen Martin, has now refused the application – as the development won't provide enough affordable housing.

The shopping parade had previously gone on the market for £1.5 million in a bid to kick-start the development.

A decision notice states: "The application has failed to provide reasoned justification or a financial appraisal to justify that the provision of affordable housing would render the scheme unviable. The applicant has not therefore entered into a section 106 agreement for the provision of on-site affordable housing or a payment of an off-site commuted sum."

Former council regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "It is disappointing that developers were not able to demonstrate or provide the amount of affordable housing."

"The developers have not signed the appropriate section 106 agreement to continue with the development, which would enhance the local area and provide more accommodation available for local people."

Just the place for a sing-along



Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir singing in Joes Chip Shop. From left, John Pritchard, Peter freakley, Eddie Nicholls, Cynthia Partridge, Jessica Marsden, Roy Gadd, David Perry and Andrew Lacon

FISH and chip shop customers were serenaded by a male voice choir as they waited for their orders.

Cradley Male Voice Choir sang a selection of songs at Ivan's Fish and Chip Shop, in Reddall Hill Road, and at Joe's Place, in Cradley Road, last Saturday. It was all

part of this year's Cradley Heath Art Festival, which runs until Saturday.

Lizzy Lee, secretary to festival organisers Cradley Heath Creative, said: "The performance was part of the Cradley Heath Art Festival, which we run every year to try to promote our local artists

in Cradley. As part of that we had the Cradley Male Voice Choir performing in two of our chip shops. "It was quite funny to see people walking in, not expecting to see a choir performing."

For details, including the festival programme, visit www.cradleyheathcreative.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patience praised over roadworks

A COUNCIL highways boss has thanked people for their patience as a multi-million traffic-busting scheme in Dudley nears completion.

A 12-month programme of work has been taking place to improve Pensnett High Street. The new traffic lights at the junction of High Street and High Oak has now opened to traffic following the work to improve road and pedestrian safety, reduce congestion and improve traffic flow in the area.

Improvements also included an additional pedestrian crossing on High Street. Bradley Street has been closed to through traffic and Birds Meadow and Tansey Green Road has been made left-turn only.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "A big thank you to all the residents, businesses and motorists for bearing with us over the last 12 months."

Care team's top tunes revealed

A CARE home team were all signing from the same song sheet as they launched their latest campaign as part of Dementia Action Week.

Home Instead Senior Care, in Dudley, has created a 'SongsToRemember' top 10 of favourite tunes that caregivers and their clients love to sing together. The three most popular songs were Bring Me Sunshine, It's A Long Way To Tipperary and You Are My Sunshine.

The team at the Dudley and Sandwell South office used the #SongsToRemember song sheet to sing along with their clients and colleagues and posted pictures and updates on social media using the hashtag.

Tribute band set to play the Best of Foo

A FOO Fighters tribute band will take the stage in Stourbridge later this month.

Food Fighterz will perform at the River Rooms on June 22. Fans can expect the band's biggest hits like Best Of You, Times Like These and Monkey Wrench.

Tickets cost £8. Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661.

Find feet at town hall movie show

DRAMA Finding Your Feet will be shown as part of a movie matinee programme on July 2 in Stourbridge.

The film, starring Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall and Joanna Lumley, will be screened at Stourbridge Town Hall at 1.30pm.

Tickets cost £4.50. To book call 01384 812812.

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COUNTY NEWS

Festival plea for memories of pub

VISITORS to the annual Wolverhampton Beer and Cider Festival, which starts today (Thursday), are being asked for memories of a city pub that is to be rebuilt at the Black Country Living Museum.

Museum staff will be at the 43rd annual festival to gather information on the Elephant and Castle, which originally stood on the corner of Stafford Street and Cannock Road. It was demolished in 2001 but is being resurrected as part of a new 1940s to 1960s area of the museum.

Anyone with memories of the pub can attend the Camra event at Ne-whampton Arts Centre from June 7-9.

Group signs up on social mobility bid

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has signed up to the Social Mobility Pledge initiative, demonstrating a commitment to accessing talent from all backgrounds.

The pledge asks employers to partner with a local school to help young people gain knowledge and experience of the workplace, provide work experience and apprenticeships and adopt open recruitment practices.

Chamber chief, Corin Crane, said: "We are encouraging businesses to become a Social Mobility Pledge accredited employer. People should be granted opportunities based on talent and hard work."

It's a dog's life for spot on sofa

BESOTTED pet owners admit their dog is 'part of the family' with almost 50 per cent of West Midland pooches having their own spot on the sofa.

More than 60 per cent of dog owners in the regions allow their pooch to sleep on their bed while more than 20 per cent have turned down nights with friends because they can't bear to leave their dog at home alone.

Over half say hello to their dog first after getting home at the end of the day, before greeting their partner.

Think Bike message is back on the roads

ROAD users are being urged to Think Bike during National Motorcycle Week of Action and have been warned that police plan to carry out enforcement action during the summer months.

Reducing motorcycle collisions continues to be a priority for West Mercia Police, after 46 people were killed and 557 badly hurt in incidents motorbike incidents over three years.

Fuel thieves strike 3,000 times in year

PETROL stations in the Black Country were targeted more than 3,000 times in a year by fuel thieves.

Sandwell was the worst hit area, figures show, with 1,070 incidents in 2017. In Dudley, there were 725.

MP for Dudley South Mike Wood is urging police and fuel stations to work hard to 'cut out' the crime. He said: "This is not a victimless crime. The cost of these thefts are felt by honest

motorists. We need police and petrol stations to work as closely together as possible to really cut this out."

West Midlands Police is encouraging businesses to operate pre-pay policies to help foil criminals who speed off from petrol forecourts without paying. The figures show that, elsewhere in the Black Country there were 653 incidents in Walsall and 632 in Wolverhampton. The statistics are

from May last year to April this year.

West Midlands Police lead for business crime, Superintendent Harvi Khatkar, said: "We work closely with petrol station managers and the British Oil Security Syndicate on tackling this issue."

The figures show the number of bilking incidents across the Black Country has decreased across the year. In May last year there were 353

incidents of petrol theft, compared to 265 in April. The Association of Convenience Stores (ACS) claimed the annual cost of bilking to UK stations is £19million.

ACS chief executive James Lowman said: "Fuel retailers make every effort to prevent fuel theft from their sites by investing in CCTV, automatic number plate recognition and staff training."

Crowds steam along to vintage transport show



Colin Burton from Coseley with his Austin 7 Opel



Keith Turley and granddaughter Abbie



Crowds enjoy the Vintage Transport and Country Fair



Graham Smith from Oldbury with his 1932 MGJ2

PETROL heads and steam buffs could admire cars and trains from across the decades at a special steam spectacular.

The fifth annual Vintage Transport and Country Fair at Himley Hall and Park was held over the weekend and saw vintage steam train, 1973 Grand Torinos and other rare classic cars.

Visitors could have a trip down memory lane to

have a look at a variety of vehicles on display. There was plenty to keep enthusiasts engaged, with attractions including fairground organs, tractors, classic cars, vintage motorbikes, cycles and vintage fire engines.

There was also the likes of a classic American army Jeep, an Austin 7 Opel, and even a 1932 MGJ2. The event ran for the whole weekend and was believed to be bigger and better than before. It developed from being the former Steamer Sunday



Robert Oldnall from Wall Heath with his classic American Army Jeep

event to a full vintage vehicle display and country fair, bringing exhibitors from across the country since its smaller beginnings.

Visitors could also enjoy family-friendly events including a children's funfair and have a look around arts and crafts stalls, vintage stalls, handcrafted collectables as well as enjoy live music.

They could enjoy a bite to eat from a variety of food stalls and watch a chainsaw carving demonstration.

Green light is given to Lye rubble recycle site

A LARGE recycling depot will be built on the former Helix factory site in Lye after planning bosses gave the thumbs up to the scheme.

The family-run facility will move to a different part of the site the plot formerly occupied by the stationary giant, in Engine Lane, and is expected to create around 50 jobs.

The company, which recycles aggregate material for the construction industry, currently operates from an unauthorised site in nearby Bott Lane.

The applicant wrote to Dudley Council insisting it was 'paramount for all concerned' that the firm be allowed to remain.

The current site, which has no planning permission, is the subject of a council enforcement notice.

Principal planning officer Peter Reed said the company had been there for more than 12 months and there had been no accidents reported there or problems arising from its presence.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, who represents the area, said he had received several complaints from residents about noise from the business and asked for six-monthly noise monitoring checks to be made.

"It is good that this will generate some further employment which is desperately needed but I would like noise assessments to be made and kept on record," he said.

The depot, which will process 40,000 tons of waste a year, has been given permission to operate from the site for three years.

Man in 70s dies from heart attack

A MAN died after suffering a cardiac arrest in Ambleside.

Emergency services were called to High Street at around 11.10am on Friday following reports of a one-vehicle collision. A man in his 70s was taken to hospital but later died.

The road was closed by police, close to the junction of Vicarage Road, but reopened around an hour later.

Jamie Arrowsmith, West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman, said: "On arrival, crews discovered a man in cardiac arrest. Bystanders had already commenced CPR."

"Ambulance staff took over and also administered advanced life support which continued en-route to Russells Hall Hospital. Unfortunately, shortly after arrival at the hospital it became apparent that nothing could be done to save him."

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Sparkling show for Midlands air ambulance

A FAMILY-RUN Jewellery business will add sparkle to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's Ball and Recognition Awards for the second year running.

T.H. Baker will be the headline sponsor for the prestigious event later this month, which will be presented by Vernon Kay and Nina Hossain. The event, now in its seventh year, will take place on June 15 at the Vox Conferencing Centre in Resorts World, on the Birmingham NEC site.

Award sponsors also include JM Bailey, Fusion Communications, EBC Group, M6 Toll, Phoenix Group, HomeXperts, McLaren Birmingham, Unity 4 and Yogurt Top.

The event will recognise the life-saving work of the aircrew, generous volunteers, fundraisers, local business partners, and the inspirational stories of airlift heroes, all who will be honoured for their achievement.

Phil Higgs, managing director for T.H. Baker, said: "We have always been supporters of Midlands Air Ambulance Charity since it first came into operation in 1991, and over the past few years our support has become even stronger." Sofia Voutianitis, corporate partnerships manager for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, added: "Without support from local businesses, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity wouldn't be able to save lives every day."

Assisted living centre to open

A NEW assisted living centre will open in Dudley tomorrow (Friday).

Opening in Cider Avenue, Quarry Bank, it will support people with disabilities and health issues with access to information about equipment and support for the home.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, Dudley Council's cabinet member for adult social care, will open the centre at 2.30pm. A one-stop shop for advice and information, it has rooms designed to replicate the traditional home showcasing a range of helpful equipment and aids for the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living space for people to try out.

Some equipment can be loaned via the community equipment service on a long-term basis.

Elton is a Milk fan

SOUL band The Milk, from Essex, are in concert at Birmingham venue Mama Roux's in Lower Trinity Street, Digbeth, tonight (Thursday). Their Favourite Worry album won praise from Elton John in 2015.

Day out centres on the under-fives



Claire Smith, Kat Brew and Michael Calleia with Harry and Molly Smith and Olivia and Oscar Brew

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy a special day out at Himley Hall and Park for the annual Under-Five's Day later this month.

The popular Dudley Council event, which features activities and entertainment for youngsters under the age of five, takes place on Friday, June 29, between 10am and 3pm.

Himley Hall and Park's own beach – complete with a giant sandpit, buckets and

spades – and Punch and Judy shows will be on offer throughout. Baby and Toddler Sense, Music Bugs, Rugby Tots, Creation Station, Kung Fu Cubs, Moo Music, Hartbeeps and Baby Ballet will all be making an appearance.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for responsible for halls, said: "The under-fives day is one of the regions largest pre-school events and we are expecting over 4,000 visitors to the park on the big day.

"For the first time this year, we are introducing a 20 per cent saving for parents and carers who wish to book online in advance."

Adult tickets start at £5 and children's at £3.50. Car parking is free.

Tickets can be booked by visiting www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/under5s.

To apply for a stall, email jacki.wynn@dudleygov.uk for a booking form, or call 01384 817822.

Two years in jail for hospital bomb hoax

A DRUNK whose bomb hoax led to major disruption at a hospital has been jailed for two years.

Norman Taylor told a horrified support worker on the second floor of Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley that he had explosives in the holdall he was carrying.

The 43-year-old then pulled out a screwdriver and ran off with the bag as the building was put into lock down, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Taylor had already called police to say a bomb had been placed at the hospital, leaving his correct name and phone number before going to Russells Hall himself on September 7 last year. He was on bail at the time.

"Patients were moved, ambulances were redirected to other hospitals and police specialist units were put on standby," said Miss Laura Culley, prosecuting. Police rushed to the hospital and Taylor's

home but he had already left. "He had gone to the hospital where he encountered a support worker whom he told he had a bomb," said Miss Culley.

He was detained at the hospital by security staff. The defendant, who had turned to alcohol after a series of tragedies in his family, he was so drunk he had started to hallucinate, a psychiatrist subsequently confirmed.

Mr Lennart Poulsen, defending, said: "The bomb hoax was not a deliberately malicious act. It was the result of temporary psychosis resulting from heavy intoxication. But he takes full responsibility."

Taylor, of Spiral Close, Halesowen, admitted possession of four imitation firearms and two charges of making a malicious communications.

Judge James Burbidge QC said: "You knew you had a problem with alcohol and should have addressed it but allowed it to take over your life."

Football fans help stem cell donor



Matt Beveridge, left, and Simon Wilkes at the Olly Wilkes Memorial tournament

MORE than 50 people signed up as potential stem cell donors at a football tournament in memory of an Albion fan.

The Olly Wilkes Memorial Football Tournament took place at Thorns Collegiate Academy, in Brierley Hill. It was jointly run by Olly's family – father Simon, mother Lynn and brother Ben –

and his former club Withymoor Colts, in memory of Olly, aged 22, who took his own life last year.

Simon Wilkes has been diagnosed with blood cancer and wanted to use the tournament to raise awareness of stem cell donation. Participants and spectators had the opportunity to sign up to the Anthony Nolan stem cell reg-

ister, by filling in details and providing a DNA sample via a cheek swab. At a similar event last year, 22 people signed up to the register, including Matt Beveridge, 26, of Stourbridge.

Anyone aged between 16 and 30, in generally good health, can join the register. Visit www.anthonynolan.org for more details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vicar's last fair before new role

A CHURCH in Dudley is making preparations to hold its summer fair on Saturday.

St Mark's Church, Pensnett, will host the annual event from noon.

It will be opened by the vicar, Rev Canon Sue Oliver, marking one of her final events before she moves to a new parish. A tombola, plants, homemade cakes and jams will be among the stalls. There will also be a barbecue.

The vicar's final service at the parish will be Songs of Praise at 4pm on July 2.

From September she will take over as Priest in the Holy Cross Group, in the Belbroughton area.

Yoga is on offer in free sessions

FREE yoga sessions are on offer in Dudley next weekend ahead of International Yoga Day.

Dudley Leisure Centre will run the sessions on Sunday, June 17, from 8.45am to 3.30pm.

Councillor Ian Kettle, Dudley Council's cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "Yoga is a form of exercise which encourages strength, flexibility but also a state of calm and focus."

Book by at the centre call 01384 812800. For further details, visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

Special guests at choral concert

COSELEY Male Voice Choir is celebrating its 70th year and will be celebrating with its annual concert in Sedgley next Saturday, June 16.

The choir has been entertaining audiences locally and around the country since 1948. The choristers will be joined by special guests singing quartet Charmony and soloist Dan Gusman at St. Andrew's Church, in Bilston Street, at 7.30 pm.

Tickets cost £6 and are available from choir members or can be purchased from the choir secretary on 0121 520 0739.

Pub open again after major refurbishment

A PUB in Stourbridge has recently reopened following a six-figure refurbishment.

The Crabmill, on Hagley Road, in Oldswinford, reopened to customers on May 26 following the refurbishment.

The pub, owned by Greene King, has introduced a lighter colour scheme with tiled walls, new furniture and contemporary flooring.

The pub also has a new menu.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Compost heap not my idea of fine dining

JAPANESE knotweed, what do you know about it? Or dandelions, or nettles? Now I thought the answer was pretty obvious. Nuke it with the most powerful weedkiller you can find.

But, according to television gardener Alys Fowler, that is completely wrong. Not only does the former Gardener's World presenter have a rather strange name, but it seems she also has a rather strange idea about what to do about garden weeds. Last week she told the Hay Literary Festival that instead of killing them, we should try eating them.

Yum, yum. Now look, I'm the first to admit to being a dreadful gardener. Every year, I spend a fortune on plants that wilt after a couple of weeks. Only last month I replied to an advert in a national newspaper featuring pictures of glorious blooms, offering "two beautiful hanging baskets" for £20. And then they arrived - just two plastic bowls and a bit of chain. No flowers like in the pictures, just two plastic bowls for 20 quid. So I'm gullible as well.

But while I know nothing about gardening - or gastronomy for that matter - it still seems difficult to comprehend that tucking into the compost heap represents the future of fine dining.

Nevertheless, Richard Bainbridge, one of those avant-garde chefs loved by the food critics in The Guardian, says he spent Wednesday last week rummaging around a car park in Norwich looking for ingredients. If that's your thing, you will not only find knotweed on his menu, but a bit of chickweed garnish too.

"I think it is lovely, it is like a light version of watercress," he says.

Simon Rogan, with two Michelin stars to his name, is another fan, although he prefers nettles and dock leaves. Nice.

Then there is Tiffany Francis, who has gone so far as to write a recipe book on the subject. She just loves dandelions, using the heads to make biscuits and the leaves as salad.

Now I probably ought to tread carefully, because someone somewhere has probably decided that disparaging garden weeds is the next big 'hate crime'. But while this sort of thing might go down a storm in the trendier parts of London, can you really see nettles from a car park in West Bromwich catching on around here?

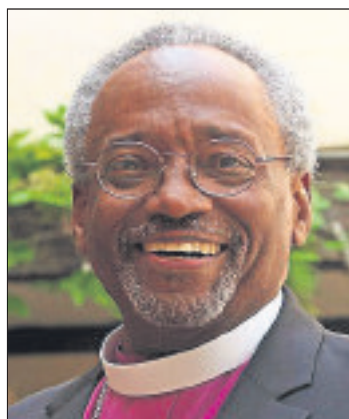
A few years ago, food critic Jay Rayner said there was nowhere good to eat out in the Black Country, because the people didn't want to pay for good food.

Well, no offence Jay, but I think I'll stick with the steak.

Showbiz names? Didn't recognise one of them!



Tony Blair - Iraq casts a shadow that will last the rest of his life



Bishop Curry's 14-minute wedding sermon - attention span was not the issue



Victoria Beckham - was said to be 'mortified' after confusing actresses

Reality is that they are not stars at all

VICTORIA Beckham was said to be "mortified" after mistaking Thandie Newton for Zoe Saldana. I sympathise. As I admitted recently, in the blood-and-guts epic The Revenant, I had great difficulty telling Leonardo DiCaprio from the grizzly bear. The Misses Newton and Saldana? I'm sorry, I haven't a clue. The problem is that there are simply so many celebrities today. I've just put down a newspaper supplement with a double-page spread of alleged showbiz stars. Didn't recognise a single one of them. It seems those whose names are preceded by "reality star" are, in reality, not stars at all.

IN October last year I wrote: "Harvey Weinstein is... deliciously easy to hate. But as this affair deepens and the Hollywood swamp is drained, don't be surprised if some of your favourite stars turn out to be wading in the ooze." But I never imagined Morgan Freeman would be in the frame and begging forgiveness.

A READER suggests I might have gained more from Bishop Curry's 14-minute sermon at the Royal Wedding if I had a greater attention span. Believe me, attention is not the issue. It's all a question of whether or not you are a believer. If you believe there is a supernatural deity somewhere Up There who created the universe, loves every one of us and has prepared a place of eternal bliss in the afterlife, then sermons such as this must be wonderfully uplifting and faith-affirming. If, on the other hand, you believe there is no God, and that religion is a system designed to keep people in their place with the promise that if this life is awful, things will be

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



great when they're dead, then you probably regard all God-botherers as at best deluded and at worst dangerous. I have heard many holy men banging on about the Love of God and the joys of Heaven but I've yet to meet one who wants to go there.

IF nothing else, the arrival of the new Duchess of Sussex is a reminder that we're not all known by our first names. Many of us, for reasons of family tradition, personal choice or the demands of showbiz, are known by a middle name. Thus, the Duchess is Rachel Meghan Markle in much the way that the US megastar is William Bradley Pitt, the former Beatle is James Paul McCartney and the "Rivers of Blood" MP was John Enoch Powell.

A USEFUL thing about being known by your middle name is that you can use your first name on official documents. And that means that when an envelope arrives addressed to William Pitt or James McCartney, you know it's not from a friend.

YOU may get a glow of satisfaction about Russian oligarchs being called to account by UK authorities and made to explain how and when they acquired their riches. But remem-

ber this. A quarter of all the income tax paid in Britain is paid by the richest one per cent of income-tax payers. While a moral crusade is heart-warming, dirty money is still money and it may be that the best way to fund the NHS is to look the other way.

ACCORDING to the Sunday Times, rising ocean temperatures may soon make wetsuits obsolete in the seas around Britain. Excellent news. Unless you have a perfect body, the black-rubber wetsuit is the most unkind and unforgiving item of clothing. I saw a woman on Loch Lomond mounting her jetski. She was a large lass, clad in a wetsuit, straddling the saddle with her ample bum in the air and a jet of water shooting up between her legs. It was unforgettable, and not in a good way, and yet from her satisfied smile, she obviously thought she looked like a Bond girl.

I GAVE an example recently of the casual effing and blinding directed at Tony Blair in online debates over everything from Syria to Brussels. I recall writing, after the 1997 General Election, that impossible as it seemed, this young and popular new Prime Minister would one day be the most hated man in England. But who could have imagined that 11 years after he resigned as PM, Blair would still be so energetically despised by so many who once adored him? Blair is desperate for what politicians call 'legacy' but Iraq casts a shadow that will last the rest of his life.

TALKING POINT



No longer saddled with rude drivers

FOLLOWING a forced leave of absence from my bicycle saddle (basically through laziness!) I am now fully back roaming the Black Country on two wheels - at least, to my place of work anyway.

And, I have to say, apart from a couple of predictable clashes with drivers of white vans who really do think the rules of the road are basically Fast & Furious 1 to 8, things have definitely improved.

In the two years or so I have been off the road, pedal-power wise at least, there is a noticeably more relaxed attitude to me in my bright yellow top, gliding past gathered cars in the bike lanes leading up to traffic lights.

I have found in the past that however courteous one driver might be to allow me access across a junction, then there will be one, or several, hotheads much less courteous in the queue behind them, who almost aim their vehicle at my rusty steed, with the accompanying high revs and hand gesticulations making cycling a somewhat daunting prospect.

Not so now though. After a couple of weeks back in the saddle, I am pleased to report there is usually space allowed to my right-hand side - apart from some aforementioned idiots in vans. Also there is no pressure to get out of the way with an occasional encroaching front bumper belonging to frustrated drivers' cars behind, and generally, it's all pretty laid back.

Of course, and it's often been said, sensible sharing of the public highway works both ways, and when Lycra-clad racing types ignore everything else on the road to make mad dashes around and in front of the more cumbersome engine-powered vehicles, it is no surprise there are tensions.

The only thing I have found disappointing is previously when I was to-ing and fro-ing as a self-propelled commuter, I estimated that my journey, which is more or less a directly straight route, was about six miles. However, with the advance of the internet, I managed to find a site which worked out distances of travelled routes, including cycling. I worked it out as a measly four miles, and yet for me, it feels like a marathon!

I regularly have to suffer the ignominy of being overtaken by older, heavier cyclists who leave me in their dusty tracks. I have come to realise that my bike simply can't go as fast as other bikes...it's probably something to do with the gears/chain/tyres etc - and nothing to do with the rider of course!

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Velodrome needed to encourage cycling

I am a grandpa and a cyclist. I have two granddaughters who are both really keen on cycling and who I hope to introduce to track cycling soon.

Sadly, the West Midlands is the worst place in the UK to live if you are interested in cycling, particularly if you are a young child. The roads are dangerous and have little to no provision for cyclists and cycle racing facilities are few.

If you want your kids to experience the thrill of riding an indoor velodrome then a trip to Derby or Newport (Gwent) are required. I have no idea

how busy parents find the time or the money to get their kids to either of these velodromes regularly enough for their kids to learn the skills required to race on the track or to experience the real thrill of riding the boards.

I know that the parents of my grand kids couldn't and it falls to me as grandpa to do this. Many children are not fortunate enough to have grandparents with the time, money and transport to do this.

Sport is not just some added extra, it is absolutely essential for a decent and enjoyable life. Taking part should not

require high incomes and the sorts of jobs that allow lots of time off.

Cycling is a tremendous sport. I have never been that good a rider but have been riding my bike and occasionally competing from when I was eight, I am now 62. How many other sports can you do this in?

An indoor velodrome for the West Midlands is a great idea. Somewhere managed and run in the interests of cyclists, by cyclists to encourage cycling at all levels could be a great success.

PETE MARSHALL
Stourbridge

Set the right example in household

AS a teacher with 40 odd years experience in primary, secondary and special education, I find it both annoying and ironic that the two problems most frequently laid at the door of schools – littering and bullying – are the two issues schools spend most time, effort and money striving to eliminate.

Peter Rhodes, fresh from his holiday on the bonny, litter-strewn banks of Loch Lomond, questions how many hours it takes in the classroom to convey the message: "Don't drop that".

His question would be more pertinent if the word 'classroom' were replaced with the word 'home'.

The most effective tutor of all is example.

In all my 40 years I can honestly say that I never saw a teacher drop litter in school but I doubt very much whether the same could be said of parents with their children at home and elsewhere.

MR B WILLIAMS
Wordsley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Wake up, council, to blinding attraction

DUDLEY visitors and businesses are missing out on the Peaky Blinder phenomena, created by filming at the Black Country Living museum close to the Hippodrome site.

While Peaky-themed bars are opening all over the country, there is nothing in Dudley. There's even a Peaky Blinders tribute band called the Peaky Blinders, yet Dudley cannot see the tourist attraction staring them in the face.

A plan to open a Peaky Blinders Museum made from a collection of photos of the gang and police uniforms has received £145,000 of Lottery cash and hopes to create a Victorian lock-up similar to where the real gang were held. Wake up Dudley Council, Peaky's big business on your doorstep.

MR G E FANTHOM
Swindon

Tax those who have benefited

FOR many years I have advocated funding the NHS through taxation. Now, with the NHS at crisis point the government has succumbed to common sense, proposing that most ordinary taxpayers pay up to an extra £2,000 per household per year to improve a dire situation caused by successive Conservative governments.

But this crisis was completely avoidable. The Tories took power from Labour in 2010 based on a promise to cut taxes, which they did, the main beneficiaries being the most wealthy and the multi-national companies.

The government claim to have put in more funds than ever, then massively cut funds under the guise of 'efficiency savings'. Now they want us to cough up for their mismanagement. They should substantially increase corporation tax so those who benefited most from the tax cuts would put the most money back in.

MICHAEL CLIFF
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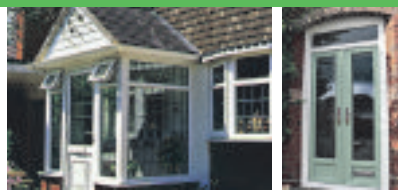
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Dudley-born footballer's medal is up for auction

A PIECE of West Bromwich Albion football history will go under the hammer at an auction in Dudley today (Thursday).

The nine carat gold Football League winner's medal awarded to Dudley-born footballer Joseph Smith for the 1919-20 season will be for sale at the auction being held at Aston's saleroom in Bayliss Hall, in Tower Street, Dudley. The jewellery, watches, coins and silver auction gets under way at 10am.

Smith, who was born in Netherton, played nearly 500 games in the Football League for the Baggies and Blues, most of which were in the First Division. He also won two full caps for England during his long career.

Debut

He turned professional with Albion in May 1910, and made his debut four months later in a Division Two match against Bolton Wanderers.

He was part of the Albion team that won promotion from the Second Division in the 1910-11 season. During the First World War he made guest appearances for Everton and Notts County.

He was selected for England for the first time in a 1-1 draw with Ireland in October 1919, making one further appearance for England in 1922.

Smith contributed to the Baggies winning the First Division title in the 1919-20 season and went on to play 434 league matches for the club. In 1926, by which time he was 36 years old, Smith joined Birmingham City and stayed with the club for three seasons, playing 50 games.



Joseph Smith – won two England caps



The medal's reverse with Smith's name

Trust help Romanian centre

A DUDLEY-based charity has raised more than £2,000 for new beds at a Romanian centre for people with severe learning difficulties.

Dudley-based Flame Trust picked the town of Calinest in Maramures, in a remote northern region near the border with Ukraine, after employing a man originally from the town.

Calin Rezmues came to the Black

Country and was supported in his English studies at Dudley College. He oversaw the delivery of the furniture. Much of the money was given by Mr Rezmues' friends in Dudley.

Dave Pope, Flame Trust chief executive, said: 'We are very happy to support this initiative that helps us to reach out to vulnerable members of this community.'

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An AJS motor-bike tester out on the road



The new two-wheeler display



The Viking Cycle Team in the 1950s



Percy Stallard, a pioneer of British road racing

Telling story of city's two-wheel heritage

TETTENHALL Transport Heritage Centre has unveiled its new two-wheeler display, thanks to help from Pallet Tracking Systems of Willenhall.

It reflects the long history of Wolverhampton in building bicycles and motorbikes, a heritage which goes back to the beginnings of both, and names like Sunbeam, AJS, Villiers, Wearwell, Hateley and Viking are included.

The metal-working skills which existed here during Victorian Times were easily adapted to making bicycles, and the trade soon flourished with, at one time, more than 80 bicycle makers.

These varied, from the huge ones, like Sunbeam and Star, to the small makers, very often at the back of bicycles shops like Dugmores, Hateleys and Fred Williams.

The whole trade was boosted by cycle racing at Molineux. Huge crowds of up to 10,000 people turned out to watch on a cycle track created in the gardens of Molineux House, which only stopped when Wolves moved over to build their new stadium on the site.

Wolverhampton's Percy Stallard then became one of the pioneers of British Road Racing. The Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycle Club is one of the oldest sporting

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

clubs in the city, and they found a new home when Aldersley Stadium was built in the 1950s, with a cycle track around the outside.

Manufacturers returned to cycle racing after the war, with major teams operated by Viking and Wearwell, who made some of the last two-wheelers.

Perhaps it was a natural progression from bicycles to motorbikes, some of the earliest of which were just bicycles with a small engine fitted, but soon some of the greatest names in British motorcycling came from Wolverhampton.

Prizes

Every year the TT Races on the Isle of Man were the pinnacle of motorcycle races, and it was often Wolverhampton firms like Sunbeam, AJS and HRD who were vying for the top prizes, but there were many other smaller makers, like Clyno, Wolf, Diamond and Sharratt.

All the bikes at the TTHC have been donated, and they are always looking for others to add to the story of the city's two-wheel heritage.



Some of the badges with very familiar names



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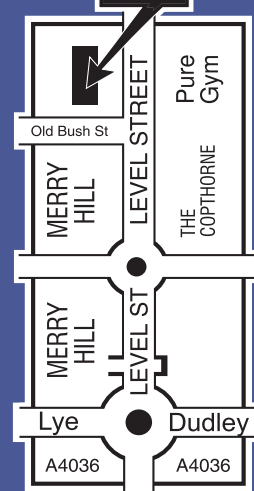
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Family hears in court of previous collision



Victim Vikki Jones

THE 22-year-old show-off driver who caused the death of a young Gornal mother had previously been convicted of injuring two schoolgirls by driving without due care and attention.

Devastated members of Vikki Jones' family were at Wolverhampton Crown Court to see killer driver Tyler Kendall jailed for six years last week for causing the 30-year-old's death.

"No parent should ever have to stand at the funeral of their child," said her mother Jane Jones, who in a statement revealed that she had suffered a heart attack following her daughter's death.

Kendall's dangerous driving in Gornal

came less than four years after he injured two girls while behind the wheel of a car.

Kendall had been fined £120 and handed five penalty points after leaving the girls with a fractured pelvis and ankle bone after driving without due care in 2014.

Judge Michael Challinor told Kendall: "You completely failed to heed what most people would have regarded as a real wake-up call when you hit those children. That did not have any effect upon you."

Sergeant Alan Wood, from West Midlands Police, said: "A mother tragically lost her life as a result of this catastrophic collision and her family are still living with the consequences."

Callous killer driver sent to prison for six years

A 'CALLOUS' driver who killed a young mother when he ploughed into her car as he showed off has been jailed for six years.

Tyler Kendall hit Vikki Jones' car after turning Dudley into his 'make-believe race track', Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 22-year-old fled the crash and left Ms Jones to die after flouting 30mph limits by reaching speeds of 75mph.

Party

Kendall had been drinking at a party he and his brother held at their Lower Gornal home in Whitebeam Close, on September 22 last year, when he got into his BMW with two of his sibling's friends at 10.30pm.

His vehicle later smashed into Ms Jones' Alfa Romeo as she turned right into Wood Road. Her then 11-year-old



Tyler Kendall

daughter Talia, in the front seat, suffered a fractured arm.

The impact forced the Alfa Romeo to spin, striking a Mercedes parked in the road, while the BMW ended up 40

metres away after colliding with a Mitsubishi. Prosecutor Mr Robert Price said: "Ms Jones could not have made any provision for a car being driven at such speeds towards her."

"No blame whatsoever can be attributed to Ms Jones for the accident."

Kendall ran home, drinking 'copious' amount of water and telling a party-goer: "I can't go back, I'm drunk." He handed himself into police hours after the crash but no alcohol was detected in his blood.

Kendall, who was given an eight-year driving ban, admitted causing death by dangerous driving, causing serious injury by dangerous driving and failing to stop after an accident.

Judge Michael Challinor told the defendant he had been 'showing off', adding: "You deliberately drove at high speed around a make-believe race track. Your failure to stop showed a callous disregard for Vikki Jones and her daughter."

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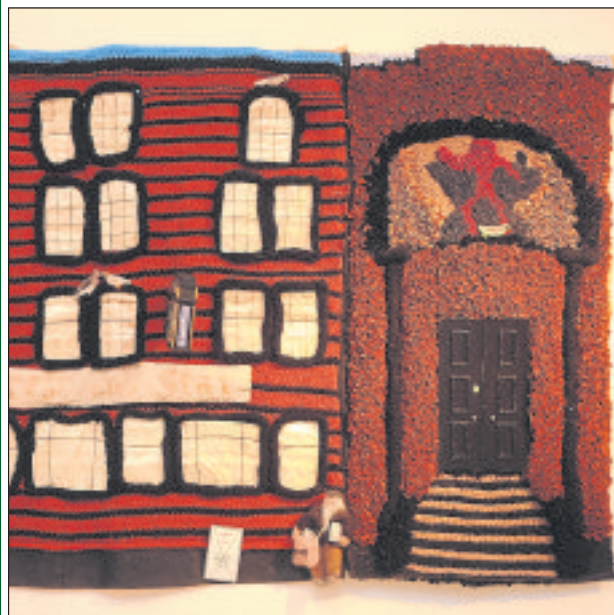


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A group shot of the Hobbs outside the Congregational Church



How Queen Street looked in the 1930s



A group shot of the Hobbs outside the Congregational Church



A scale model of Queen Street forms part of the exhibition



Kay and Fred Hobbs next to a piece depicting the church where they married

Streets ahead with unique artwork

"WHEN I told people I was knitting the Express & Star, they thought I'd lost it."

Hazel Thomas is speaking about the eye-catching piece of textile art she and friend Helen Page have created for the Queen Street exhibition, which has just opened at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

The pair are members of the Bantock Bodgers group whose vibrant interpretations of some of the street's most historic buildings are real show-stoppers.

The spotlight has fallen on the street following a successful bid for Heritage Lottery funding by the city council to conserve, repair and restore some of its oldest and most handsome buildings.

The exhibition showcases the road, telling its history in words, craft pictures, sketches, models and collected stories, illustrating why it was singled out for conservation. Hazel, aged 70, of Oxley, and Helen, 71, from Bilton, took six months to complete the textile art.

"We decided to create a pre-1930s version

of the building and had help from Hazel's husband David and my partner Steve and a friend Carolyn, who made the non-textile parts," said Helen.

Other pictures include a replica of the Congregational Church that used to stand on the corner of Queen Street and Market Street – where the Job Centre now stands – before it was demolished in 1971.

A hunt by gallery staff to find people who used to worship at the Victorian church almost 50 years ago was successful with a handful of former congregation members

attending the exhibition opening – including a couple who married at the church in the 1950s. Kay and Fred Hobbs, from Compton, had met and fallen in love at the Royal Hospital in Wolverhampton where they worked in research in the pathology laboratory.

Kay said: "It was a lovely church to get married in, not least because you could take wonderful group photographs on the steps outside so you could see everyone."

Fred, a former deacon of the church, said: "It was very sad to see it go but the combination of an elderly congregation and the cost

of maintaining the building meant it couldn't survive."

At the centre of the exhibition is a scale model of the street produced by first and second year students from the University of Wolverhampton's School of Architecture and Built Environment.

They have also completed a laser scan not only of the exterior of the street, but also an internal scan of one of the street's typical Georgian townhouses. It is planned to create 3D graphics to be incorporated into a Queen Street App due to be launched in September.

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Free beer offer for World Cup

A PUB is offering locals a free pint while they watch the World Cup this summer.

Greene King pub The Crabmill in Hagley Road, Oldswinford, is giving away free pints of limited edition beer – created with former player-turned-television personality Chris Kamara. The light ale named ‘Un-Beer-lievable’ will be available from June 14 to anyone who watches football at the pub and downloads the free Greene King Season Ticket app.

Crabmill general manager Samantha Luke said: “We’re giving locals an extra reason to swap their sofa for the pub – with a pint of beer they didn’t have to pay for.”

Amy waltzes back to Strictly dancefloor¹⁵

A PROFESSIONAL dancer based in Dudley will return to Strictly Come Dancing as part of the biggest line-up of professionals ever.

Amy Dowden, aged 27, is one of 18 professional dancers who have been selected to perform with star partners in the sixteenth series of the hit BBC One show.

She was selected to return after joining for the first time last season when she was paired up with comedian, actor and television presenter Brian Conley. The pair made it to the fifth week.

The dancer, originally from Wales, said: “I am really excited for the show, I cannot wait to start again.

“Last year was so much fun and I learned so much. I made some lifelong friends including Brian Conley.

“It was great fun to work with him and we are still in touch.

Nervous

“I am always nervous for the show but the day you are not nervous is the day you should hang up your shoes. I am always nervous for my partner too.

“Me and Brian got to the fifth week but hopefully I can do better this year. I just

have to wait and see who my new partner is.”

Amy has been dancing since she was eight and decided to pursue dance as a career when she was 18.

She went on to win the 2017 British National Championships, is a four-time British National Finalist and reached the semi-final of the World Championship in 2015. She runs a dance academy called Art in Motion, on the Thornleigh Trading Estate.

Three new dancers will join Strictly – Graziano Di Prima, Johannes Radebe and Luba Mushtuk – when it returns in the autumn



Amy Dowden during last year's series with Brian Conley

Teacher Alex is in tune to win top music competition



Alex Ohm from Lower Gornal who has won a national online music competition

A PRIMARY school teacher was in tune to win a top music competition.

Alex Ohm, a singer from Upper Gornal, beat 2,000 other contenders in the up-and-coming Pirate Prodigy contest, which scouts the best musicians in the nation.

As part of the prize, he will be performing at festivals all over the country and be coached by top producers.

Support

The 30-year-old supply teacher, who used to work at Olive Hill Primary in Halesowen, said: “It’s great. It was such a big shock. But I think the biggest shock was all the support.

“People all over the world were voting for me in the end, it was very humbling and

overwhelming. It wasn’t what I expected at all.”

An expert panel of industry mentors and judges will now support, develop and promote Alex’s career in music.

He will receive one-to-one mentoring and masterclasses to help launch his career in the music world and also be given studio time with professional producers who have worked with Florence + The Machine.

As part of the prize he will also be treated to free video production, expert branding and marketing advice, social media promotion, and festival slots.

Alex, who lives with 25-year-old partner Grace, describes his music style as similar to indie rock band Alt-J, indie folk band Fleet Foxes or folk band Bon Iver.

Drivers pay £930k to recover stolen cars

VICTIMS of vehicle theft have been forced to fork out almost £1 million to get their vehicle back since 2011.

New figures show drivers paid Staffordshire Police £933,862 in recovery and storage charges to retrieve stolen vehicles. In total, 5,782 have had to pay the charges, according to information provided by a Freedom of Information request.

In the past 12 months, £172,057 was paid out, compared to £129,965 in 2016/17. In 2015/16, £99,335 in charges was paid to Staffordshire Police – almost half of the amount in 2017/18.

Motorists can be charged between £150 and £6,000 in vehicle recovery costs, depending on the size and type of the vehicle.

Staffordshire Police, which was unable to provide a comment on the issue, said the charges were set by the Home Office.

Poetry time for carers

A POETRY event is being held in Dudley Library during Carers Week next week.

Taking Care is running in the St James’s Road venue on Tuesday from 11am to 1pm. It will be led by writer and performance poet Emma Purshouse. There will also be information about resources and support groups for carers in the area.

Places at the free event need to be booked in advance on 01384 815555 or by e-mailing cara.evans@gll.org.

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Veterans are on song for RAF centenary



Joan Jones of Madeley was in the Waafs

AFTER a long delay because of the weather, it was finally take-off time for celebrations by Shropshire's RAF veterans to mark the 100th anniversary of the service.

"It should have been in March but we had to cancel it because of snow," said treasurer Mrs Georgina Wheeler as members of the Shropshire branch of the National Service (RAF) Association gathered for a centenary meal and entertainment from Hadley & District Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

"We have 47 members, and we are for anybody who was in the RAF, although we have a few Army people now as well as it gets them out of the house."

The gathering was at Christophers restaurant in the Swan Hotel at Wellington, where the branch meets on the third Monday of every month.

The group, which is only a few years old – it met for the first time in January 2013 – gives the veterans a chance to forge new friendships and maintain old ones.

Musical entertainment from the choir included songs which were familiar to those RAF pioneers of 1918, like Pack Up Your Troubles and It's a Long Way to Tipperary, and ended with Vera Lynn's We'll Meet Again with all joining in.

A lot of the veterans are post-war National Service conscripts, but one who volunteered to join up is 81-year-old Mrs Joan Jones, nee Heaton, of Madeley, who served in the Waafs – that is, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Aerobatics

"I was working on a farm hoeing sugar beet, on my own in this field at Charlton, near Wellington. I stood and watched a Chipmunk doing aerobatics. I thought: 'Dear God, I would love to fly.' And then when I got home, lo and behold there was an advert in the newspaper saying Join The Air Force and See the World. That's what I did," she said.

"That was in 1956. I joined as a Waaf airframe mechanic, and worked on that beloved little Chipmunk. I was based at RAF Shawbury. I loved flying that much that I learned to fly. I went with a particular pilot who taught me to fly and do aerobatics. It was not official. Whenever this pilot was going solo, I would go with him and he would let me take over. I did a lot of sport in the air force which I absolutely adored. I held the record for the shot put for the Waafs. I was in the Waafs fencing team and did discs and javelin."

Back in civvy street, the last 24 years of her working life was as a lifeguard at Madeley Court Centre.

Colin Hough of Shrewsbury, who is 85 on June 27, joined at 18 and served in the RAF Regiment – the unit tasked with defending airfields. His job was driving a lorry which towed a 40mm Bofors anti aircraft gun.

During service in Germany he went to Belsen, site of an infamous concentration camp.

"You will never see a bird in Belsen. I went back there three years ago."

A Leading Aircraftman, he used to box as a welterweight. "I still run a club in Shrewsbury today. I had 157 bouts and lost 17."

Mrs Wheeler said anybody interested in the joining the branch can simply come to one of its monthly meetings. Generally the veterans have a speaker, followed by a meal from 1pm to 2pm.



Marching past the dais with fixed bayonets



The band's coming!

From days when town had 'proper' parades

HERE are some memories, says Ralph Walker of Bridgnorth, of the days when the town had "proper" parades.

Mr Walker has sent us three pictures although he is not certain what the events are, although we can positively identify at least one of them as being from a ceremony in 1950 when RAF Bridgnorth was conferred the Freedom of Entry to the town.

"They were taken in the days when we had proper parades in Bridgnorth," he said.

"They are all taken in Bridgnorth High Street in the 1950s. My granddad was Alderman Arthur Harrison and is on two of them. I'm also on two. I was very young then."

Mr Walker was born in 1946 and his grandfather died in 1957.

"It's sad that Shropshire market towns seem to have lost the importance they once had," he said.

Bayonets

One image shows RAF personnel marching past a dais outside the Crown Hotel with fixed bayonets.

"I'm the boy on the left standing with my grandfather next to the man with the mace."

Another shows a military band marching past the Town Hall.

"I'm the child with a cap, in the crowd of people at the bottom of the picture, with my dad. I'm not sure what this event is – possibly Remembrance Sunday?"

The third picture shows a dignitary signing something on the dais, and it must be an important occasion, as there's a BBC microphone, and another microphone bearing the initials F.R.S. which we shall guess – and this is only a guess – might stand for Forces' Radio Service.

Mr Walker has an idea of what this photo might depict.

"I think it is the council giving the Freedom of Bridgnorth to the RAF. Note the

MEMORY LANE

By Toby Neal

man in the window top right hand corner who looks like a waiter. It was the Crown Hotel, later to become Woolworths. My grandfather is behind the mic, second councillor in from the right."

With this clue we dipped into a contemporary Bridgnorth Journal published on Friday, April 14, 1950, which carried a report of a ceremony two days earlier in the town when the Freedom of Right of Entry was conferred on RAF Bridgnorth.

And we can confirm that that was indeed the occasion, as the paper's front page carried a picture of the same scene in front of the Crown Hotel, albeit taken at a slightly different moment as it showed the Mayor giving the oak casket containing the Freedom scroll to the base's commanding officer.

The report also explains what was being signed in Mr Walker's picture.

It says Group Captain Read, the CO of RAF Bridgnorth, signed, with a quill pen, the Roll of Freemen, as did the Mayor and Town Clerk.

Honour

According to the paper the event was "unique, because never before has such a signal honour been paid a unit of the RAF."

It also spoke of there being "eight roaring jet planes," so presumably there was a flypast.

Having been granted the Freedom of Entry to the town, it was then up to the RAF personnel to exercise it.

And they did so for the first time on Sunday, May 28, of that year, when they marched through the streets of the town with fixed bayonets on Mayor's Sunday – this may well be the occasion featured in the other two photos.

And here's another question that you might well be able to answer (because we can't).

Where is the Freedom scroll now?



The signing of the Roll of Freemen in 1950

Angela devoted more than 60 years to amateur operatics



Angela Davies, left, in a photocall at Shrewsbury Castle

A STALWART of Shropshire amateur operatics has died shortly before her 78th birthday.

Angela Davies devoted more than 60 years to Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society as a performer, director, and ultimately for more than 30 years as its secretary.

Chairman Steve Thomas described her as the "absolute backbone" of the society, saying: "There will never be another Angela – a true performer, both on and off stage, right to her final days."

Her husband Bob said: "Right up to the very end she was still involved as secretary and even got me last week, when she was not feeling so well, to ring the chairman to apologise to him that she had not been able to do the minutes for the last committee meeting."

Angela, from Bayston Hill, would have been 78 on June 1. She leaves husband Bob, sons Ian and Russell, and five grandchildren.

Angela, a life member and former president, was involved in scores of society productions. She first became involved as a teenager, following her mother Mrs Gladys Moreton, who was in the chorus, on stage.

"She had been to the Wendy Everest School of Dancing in Shrewsbury as a youngster and initially she was basically a dancer," said retired journalist Bob.

"She graduated to join the chorus as a singer. Although she never had a lead part or anything like that, she was wholeheartedly involved in the productions, performing at the Granada, and then the Music Hall, and then at the Theatre Severn.

Steve said: "Angela was the absolute backbone of Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society. She had an amazing ability to get things done behind the scenes quietly by going about her numerous roles without any fuss."

Footballer's wife on zoo walk fundraiser

FOOTBALLER'S wife Rebekah Vardy will pound the pavements at Dudley Zoo for children in need.

The 36-year-old, married to Leicester City and England striker Jamie Vardy, will join Barnardo's Big Toddle next Tuesday. She will take to the Castle Hill zoo with her children and Teletubby 'Po' to officially launch the fundraiser, which gets under way at 11am.

Barnardo's ambassador Rebekah, who appeared on last year's 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here', said: "I'm really looking forward to taking my little ones to the Big Toddle at Dudley Zoo.

"We are really glad to be supporting Barnardo's and this is a really fun way to raise some money and spend time outside with your family at the same time."

Admission is £7.50 for adults and over-fives, but free for toddlers, with medals for all participants and free refreshments.

Proceeds will go towards the charity's work.

Wolves go for gold in traditional strip return

WOLVES will revert to a 1950s-style classic old gold kit for their return to the Premier League next season – as Molineux undergoes a six-figure facelift.

It is believed the new away kit will see the club's traditional white make a comeback as Wolves and new kit providers Adidas go retro for the highly anticipated top-flight campaign.

Preparations are well under way for Wolves' first Premier League season for six years. Building work has been ongoing since the end of the season with scaffolding erected outside the stadium's Billy Wright stand entrance.

The club has to comply with Premier League regulations and is revamping its changing rooms, manager's office, referee's room and kit room, while a new press conference room is being installed and floodlights are being brightened to conform with Sky's state-of-the-art HD replays.

Demands

Cables are being laid around the ground to meet Sky Sports' broadcasting demands. Work has also started at the corner of the Sir Jack Hayward and Steve Bull stands in readiness for a £250,000 statue of legendary former owner Sir Jack being unveiled this month.

A plinth has been installed near the entrance to the subway at the top of Molineux Street. The new

20,000 snap up season tickets at Molineux

MORE than 20,000 season tickets have been sold ahead of Wolves' return to the Premier League, with record numbers securing their seats for next season.

Some 98 per cent of existing season ticket holders have renewed as excitement builds for the new season in the top flight in August.

The vast majority of fans have chosen to keep their season tickets to ensure they will be in place as Wolves prepare for visits from the likes of Manchester United and Liverpool next term.

Time is running out for season ticket holders who have renewed to relocate to an alternative Molineux seat. New season tickets will then go on sale, with dates and pricing to be announced by the club next week.

Supporters who want to move seats are being reminded there will be fewer options than usual due to the high demand. Requests will be first come, first served.



Andy Palmer, zoo director Derek Grove and gardeners Paul Durber, Ivor Norris and Carl Stevens

Andy's recognised for 40 years of spadework

DUDLEY Zoo's longest serving employee has been recognised for years of work keeping the grounds looking their best.

Gardener Andy Palmer began work at the site on leaving school in 1978. To mark the milestone, the 56-year-old planted an acer called Crimson King by the summer beach, Ow Bin Ya Sands, with colleagues from the gardening team and zoo director Derek Grove.

Mr Palmer, who lives in Lower Gornal, has been working at the zoo since finishing his studies at Ellowes Hall School at the age of 16.

"I left school on the Friday, started at the zoo on the Monday and I've been here ever since," he said. In 2003, Mr Palmer planted a silver birch tree to celebrate 25 years of service.

For his 40th anniversary, Mr Palmer was presented with £200 of gift vouchers by Mr Grove.

Meanwhile, a Brazilian tapir at the zoo was treated to a carrot-topped cake to mark her first birthday.

Keeper Josh Luxton combined all of Luna's favourite fruits, veg and pellets to create the special treat and then broadcast a video on Facebook.

Luna was born on May 28 last year to parents Chico and Meena, who has had five other babies, after a 13-month pregnancy.



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Canal plunge men saved by firefighters

FIREFIGHTERS came to the rescue of three men who fell into a canal in the Black Country.

One man was left unconscious and was rushed to hospital after the trio managed to get trapped within a canal lock system in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The men were caught 20ft down in the Birmingham Main Line Canal lock

off Wolverhampton's Cannock Road, near to the Esso petrol station.

West Midlands Fire Service said the ambulance service alerted them to the incident at about 1.20am on Sunday.

A spokesman said: "Firefighters entered the water and rescued the unconscious male. The other two were assisted using a ladder."

The unconscious man was given

CPR at the scene, helping him to breathe again before all three were taken to hospital just after 2am.

The men, who were rescued were also suffering from hypothermia, the fire service confirmed.

Firefighters from Fallings Park were assisted by a specialist water crew from Coventry, as well as a Wednesbury-based water rescue team.

Police probe as fire rips through 20 cars in suspected arson

A HUGE blaze ripped across a recycling centre after suspected arsonists set vehicles alight in an early-morning attack.

A 15-strong team of firefighters rushed to the blaze in Walsall, thought to have been set by a group of trespassers on Sunday during the early hours.

Police are investigating the cause of the fire, which gutted about 20 scrap vehicles.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman confirmed police had been made aware of the suspected arson.

He said: "The incident is believed to be deliberately ignited by trespassers."

The blaze started at a car recycling centre in Wood Lane, Short Heath, the fire service said.

Crews from Willenhall, Bloxwich, Wolverhampton and Walsall were called out to the incident after reports of the fire just after 2am.

Firefighters were met with fierce flames spread across the area, as well as smouldering vehicles, which caused a thick smog.

Returned

Tweeting on Sunday, Bloxwich Fire confirmed its crews had attended the blaze and said: "Crews from Bloxwich, Walsall and Willenhall attending a car recycling centre earlier this evening."

There were no injuries during the fire, which took at least two hours to put out, the fire service confirmed.

Firefighters left the site just after 4am but some crews returned three hours later to check the site.

A fire service spokesman added: "The crews packed away, initially at 4am."

"Bloxwich Fire went back out at about 6.55am to check and close the incident."

Videos of the blaze, released by the fire service, show the inferno mounting as it burns through vehicles parked in the centre's yard.

Firefighters captured the moments after the blaze was finally extinguished, with smoke rising from burnt-out cars.

West Midlands Fire Service tweeted on Sunday: "Our crews were working hard last night while you were all asleep #keepingyousafe."



The blaze which hit scrap cars at premises in Walsall



A firefighter dousing the scrap cars following the early morning attack

Expansion plans backed

A MAJOR schools expansion programme to create an extra 1,000 places for children in the Black Country is set to take a major step forward.

Councillors have been advised to give the green light for a new school on Kelvin Way in West Bromwich, along with a new teaching block at Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick.

The two applications are part of £10.8 million plan to expand pupil

places in the borough, which is predicted to need an extra 3,500 places by 2025 due to an increasing population.

The plans are central to the council's long term expansion with the Kelvin Way school creating an additional 750 places while the Shireland academy expansion will provide 275.

A final decision on the programme was due to be made at a meeting being held yesterday, Wednesday.

Hotel jobs on way as Travelodge expands

HOTEL chain Travelodge will create 1,785 jobs across the country this summer - including several developments in the West Midlands.

More than 1,100 positions are permanent roles which need to be filled immediately across the company's 546 UK hotels. The building programme includes sites in Walsall and Solihull and Telford's Southwater among those preparing to open.

The hotel is currently being completed on green land near Southwater Square. It is creating 12 full time and 29 part time jobs. The plans will also see a new public green space and events area made available to visitors.

The Travelodge will compete with the existing Premier Inn at Southwater.

It is part of an ambitious plan by the company to increase the number of hotels it has across the UK.

World Cup Geoff is guest at fundraiser

TICKETS are still on sale for an evening with England footballing legend Sir Geoff Hurst.

The event will be taking place at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC's ground in the centre of the city, Molineux on Thursday, October 25 from 6.30pm and will include a three-course meal and a charity auction.

As well as Sir Geoff - who played out his days in the football league with West Bromwich Albion in the 1970s - his England 1966 World Cup winning goalkeeper colleague Gordon Banks will be there along with Black Country comedian Jonny Cole.

The host for the event will be BBC WM's Daz Hale. Fundraising on the evening will be in support of Help for Heroes.

Visit cpeventsafety.com and click on Upcoming Events for tickets.



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As little as 20-30 minutes of cycling can boost your quality of sleep



If you're looking for a way to lift your spirits, cycling could be just the tonic

Take a spin through the health benefits of cycling

By Liz Connor

ELITE cyclists from all over the world will soon descend upon Europe for this year's Tour de France. The world's most famous cycling race will see 22 teams go head to head for more than 2,000 miles, ending with a magnificent sprint down France's iconic Champs-Elysees.

For an energetic workout that'll burn calories, torch fat and clear the mind, nothing quite beats the challenge of getting on two wheels.

If you manage to complete the exhausting 23-day TdF for instance, you could burn off up to 118,000 calories - that's the equivalent of 26 Mars bars per day.

Thankfully, you don't have to pedal across France to get a decent workout from cycling, however. Even if you just choose to potter around Shropshire's picturesque country lanes, regularly finding time to get on your bike can bring some pretty important benefits for both mind and body. And now that the sun is shining, there's never been a better time to get inspired by the likes of Joanna Rowsell and Chris Froome.

Here, fitness experts explain more about the health and fitness benefits of cycling...

1. It may help you to live longer

It should come as no big surprise that low levels of physical activity have been linked to a myriad of serious and life-threatening health conditions, and a cycle a day can be one of the most gentle and enjoyable ways to get moving.

"There's lots of evidence to suggest that cycling can promote long life," says Bryan McCullough, a clinical manager and physiotherapist from Pure Sports Medicine (puresportsmed.com). "For instance, a study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, conducted on over 80,000 British adults, found that cycling participation produced a significant reduction in causes of mortality - including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer."

Another study, published in the British Medical Journal, found that commuters who cycled had a 52% lower risk of dying from heart disease, and 40% lower risk of dying from cancer than those that didn't.

2. You can lose weight

Struggling to lose those stubborn extra pounds? It might be time to pocket the car keys and invest in a bike. "Cycling is a great way to shed the calories, build muscles in the lower body and gradually improve cardiovascular fitness at a sustainable pace," says Louise Williams, cycling expert at Halfords (halfords.com).

Cycling also packs on lean muscle - particularly in the legs. When your foot hits the downstroke, you use a fiery combination of the glutes in the buttocks, the quadriceps



Commuters who cycle have a lower risk of heart disease than those who don't



Cycling is an effective way to shake off stress and having company can make for a more interesting ride

in the thighs, and the gastrocnemius and soleus muscles in the calves to propel you forward. As you backstroke the wheel back into position, the body then relies on the hamstrings in the back of the thighs and the flexor muscles in the front of the hips to keep you in motion, creating a total lower-body workout.

"Perhaps best of all, it's very low-impact," says Williams, "which means it's much easier on the knees than running. You can get all of the benefits of a challenging workout without straining your joints."

3. You'll sleep better

We all know there's nothing worse than staring at the ceiling in the early hours of the morning, willing sleep to come. So next time insomnia strikes, think about cycling your commute home instead. "Cycling can be tiring work and it has been shown to have a significant positive effect on those who suffer with sleep issues," says McCullough. "Just as little as 20-30 minutes of

cycling on alternate days is enough to have a significant impact on sleep quality."

Getting enough sleep is vital for overall health, and plays a role in improving your mood and balancing your hormone levels, while ongoing sleep deficiency is linked to an increased risk of conditions including heart disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and stroke.

4. It can boost your mood

If you're looking for a way to lift your spirits, cycling could be just the tonic. "It's basically an alternative way to achieve what is known as 'runner's high'," says McCullough. "The euphoria you feel after a rigorous cycle is all down to the exercise-induced release of endorphins within your body, which are not only potent pain relievers, but also help to boost your mood."

Cycling is also an effective way to shake off stress; exercising burns off the excess adrenaline you've built up during the day's challenges, while slowing down the produc-

tion of the stress hormone cortisol.

5. Better heart health

Cycling is a cardiovascular activity, making it a thorough workout for the heart. Like any form of aerobic exercise, it also increases the presence of good cholesterol in the body, whose job is to transport fat away from arteries.

In fact, The British Medical Association found that cycling just 20 miles a week can slash your risk of coronary heart disease in half, when compared with staying sedentary.

To add to its merit, cycling is also one of the most enjoyable forms of exercise you can find. "As with most things, long bike rides are best done with friends," says Williams. "So if you're looking to build your physical fitness, why not take on a big cycling challenge? Not only does some company make for a more interesting ride, but you'll all share the effort, help keep each other motivated and have fun along the way."

Best apps for helping you get a good night's sleep

THAT dodgy car alarm blaring at 3am. The neighbour's dog barking. The dental appointment you just remembered you were supposed to book...

There are plenty of legitimate reasons why so many of us don't manage to clock up the optimal nightly eight hours of sleep that experts recommend - so if you're yawning as you read this, you're probably not alone. According to a survey, an astonishing 38 per cent of UK adults are not getting enough sleep.

There's no denying that getting plenty of rest is an essential part of a healthy and happy lifestyle: A great night's sleep aids brain function, helps balance hormones and blood sugar levels, safeguards against mood swings and repair blood vessels. While your smartphone might be one of the things preventing you drifting off into blissful deep slumber every night, it could also be part of the solution - as there are now a number of apps designed to help you fall asleep faster and easier. Here is our pick of the best apps to help you sleep...

1. Pzizz (pzizz.com)

This clever app creates personalised soundscapes to help you relax and drift off to sleep peacefully - think of it like the sleep DJ you never knew you needed. Simply plug in the amount of time you'd like to snooze for, and the app will adjust a timed mix to lull you into a deep slumber and gently rouse you when it's time to wake up. If you struggle to focus at work in the daytime too, there's also music designed to help you to work faster and more effectively.

2. Headspace (headspace.com)

This comprehensive meditation app has hundreds of different guided and unguided meditations to help you to switch off. Using helpful animations and soothing instructions from British co-founder Andy Puddicombe, the app's free 10-day trial talks you through 10 easy exercises that promote the calm and relaxation needed to fall asleep peacefully. If you find Headspace agrees with you, a subscription (starting from £5.99 a month) will unlock 550 more hours of voice-led meditations, with plenty that focus specifically on sleep.

3. Twilight (twilight.urbandroid.org)

Studies have shown that the blue light emitted from your device screens (smartphones included) can cause the body to suppress melatonin - a chemical which plays a key role in controlling our body clock and helps us to feel sleepy at night. Apple phones now come with a Night Shift setting that warms your screen with orange light once evening falls,

but many Android phones don't yet have this capability. That's where Twilight comes in; it controls the light on your Android phone, depending on the time of day, making sure you're not staring at a blue light just before it's time to go to bed.

4. Sleep Cycle (sleepcycle.com)

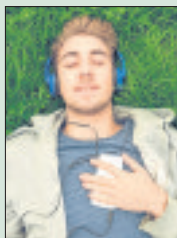
Don't identify as a morning person? This intelligent alarm clock analyses your sleep patterns so it can wake you up during the lightest sleep phase, which is the natural waking point. Simply place your phone by your bed and Sleep Cycle will do the rest - monitoring your bedtime movements to track your sleep patterns. In the morning, you'll get a full report of how well you slept, with handy graphs illustrating how alcohol and other lifestyle factors can affect your slumber.

5. Power Nap App (visualhype.net)

Napping is a tricky thing to get right: Sleep too much and you'll risk feeling even worse than you did before you bedded down. VisualHype's Power Nap App comes set with a nap timer that only goes up to half an hour long (experts say that any longer than 30 minutes will leave you feeling groggy and unbalanced), and includes built-in soothing audio tracks to help you nap more effectively.

6. White Noise Lite (tmsoft.com)

If you live in a busy urban area, sound pollution can be a major contributor to insomnia - and sometimes all you need to drift off peacefully is to cut out the background noise. Next time your neighbours are having a house party, try putting in your headphones and listening to white noise, a type of deeply relaxing sound that is produced by combining audio of all different frequencies together (babies love it!). This app has plenty of natural and man-made sounds to help zen out to.



CAROLE KING'S BEAUTIFUL STORY PAGE 2

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The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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Goin' Wild for the Carole King story

Long before she was a chart-topping music legend, Carole King was an ordinary girl with an extraordinary talent. *Beautiful*, which features at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to June 16, tells the inspiring true story of Carole's remarkable rise to stardom.

It shows her journey from being part of a hit song-writing team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history.

Along the way she wrote the soundtrack to a generation, including one of the best-selling albums of all time, *Tapestry*, and countless classics such as (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman, Take Good Care of My Baby, You've Got a Friend, So Far Away, It Might as Well Rain Until September, Up on the Roof, and The Locomotion.

Beautiful – The Carole King Musical will roll into Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this week and we caught up with leading lady Bronté Barbé to find out what it's like to play the star.

What are you most enjoying about playing Carole King in the UK tour of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*?

The songs! The music is amazing; it's just the best. I haven't played a part like this in my career so far. I also love how everyone in the company on tour with us is so nice; it's a big family feel, which is lovely.

Have you always wanted to be on stage and had the performing bug?

Yes absolutely I have. My mum's always performed – she's done a lot of amateur dramatics and my auntie is a singer so it was always in the family. I first started dancing when I was three in baby ballet, and I took dance lessons for years and years but I didn't actually want to be a dancer. In fact I was always singing, and I think my mum told me that I would be in the park and singing *The Little Mermaid* to other kids on the swings! I also used to sing *Titanic* down the phone to my grandma and she used to cry, all that sort of thing! So yes, I've always wanted to perform really. I started doing drama at a young age and doing shows with my mum where I would play the child and things like that. There's nothing else I've wanted to do really, I've been so firm and set on it. The first time I was on stage was when I played the littlest angel in the *Nativity* play at primary school, and I've loved it ever since.

Were you familiar with Carole King's work prior to joining the show?

Yeah I was. I've had *Tapestry* for years actually. When I first got a record player I bought it because my Mum said, 'you have to get this album it's amazing', but I didn't realise until listening to it just how many songs that I already knew were actually written by Carole King. Then I saw the show in the West End and realised there are loads and loads of songs I was pleasantly surprised to know, but had no idea were written by her. So many of her songs have filtered into my head without me knowing through the TV or radio.

Was there something in particular that drew you to the role of Carole King, or do you identify with her at all?

Totally, she is so determined, particularly as a woman starting out in the time she did, working in the industry she did. She knew what she wanted, so worked hard and went out and got

Beautiful music – Bronté Barbé stars as Carole King



it, which makes her very inspirational. However, she is also a very relatable character I think.

What is life on the road like? Is there one thing you absolutely couldn't be without?

My favourite thing in the world is Lush so every town or city we visit I find a Lush because it makes me feel very calm. Most of the time I try and tour with my little dog so that helps. Lots of little things like putting pictures up in my dressing room and having a certain type of tea before the show help me to feel calm and ready to perform. We aren't in each venue for long but it's nice to feel a little bit settled.

Do you have any particular rituals for pre or post-show?

I just drink tons and tons of water. I always have an interval orange as well like a football match. I always have one, as it's so good for energy and no matter how I'm feeling I just feel great after an interval orange, it's very helpful.

Do you have a dream role that you'd love to take on?

This is absolutely a dream role, being able to play Carole King every

She worked hard and went out and got it, which makes her inspirational

night and sing her songs. I would also quite like to be in a period drama. I love to play inspiring women and there aren't that many fully female-led shows out there so playing Carole King is wonderful.

Carole King is an icon of the singer songwriter world and an idol to many. Do you have any idols that you look up to?

Oh yeah totally. I would probably say Julie Walters and Victoria Wood. My idols are lots of female comedy geniuses. However, playing Carole King every night is great, she's definitely iconic!

The tour stops in Wolverhampton, does this venue have any significance for you?

Wolverhampton is great because I can stay with family which is always lovely.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Express & Star every Friday.



Gary Barlow in concert



Gary is ready to shine as he gets closer to the fans

It's been 20 years since Gary Barlow last played Birmingham's Symphony Hall. Now the Take That frontman is back with two shows, on Thursday and Friday, June 14 and June 15.

The last time Barlow played a string of venues this size, which included Wolverhampton Civic Hall, the demand was so high he could have sold some venues out six times over.

The Cheshire-born singer said: "I had such a lot of fun back in 2013 when I played those smaller venues because you're so much closer to the fans. The audience always seem to love the intimacy of it all too."

Barlow found worldwide fame as a member of Take

That. Since forming in 1989 the group have won eight BRIT awards, sold more than 45 million records and over eight million concert tickets. He has also become a familiar face on TV via a stint as a judge of The X Factor and his own talent show Let It Shine.

He is one of Britain's most successful songwriters, having written 14 Number One singles as well as being a six-time recipient of an Ivor Novello Award.

In recent years, Barlow has also turned his attention to the world of theatre, composing the score for the hugely successful production Finding Neverland, working alongside screenwriter Tim Firth to write the music and lyrics for musical The Girls and also working alongside his Take That band mates to produce The Band, featuring the music of Take That.

New opportunity knocks for Crush



CLIFF Richard's hit 1963 film Summer Holiday has been turned into a feel-good musical.

It is coming on tour at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, June 12 to 16 featuring Ray Quinn as Don, the role originally played by Cliff in the film, who heads on a fun-packed trip in a London bus across Europe in search of a good time and a brilliant summer.

Along the way they pick up a girl singing group and a young American pop star who is on the run from her domineering mother.

The show features such vintage Cliff hits as In the Country, Summer Holiday, Bachelor Boy, Move It, Living Doll, The Young Ones and On the Beach.

Pianist turned actor Bobby Crush, pictured, the Opportunity Knocks winner recently seen in Last Laugh in Vegas, will co-star as Don's long-suffering agent Jerry. Crush says folks are in for a treat. "My friend Darren Day toured with it some years ago. This is a great show."

Crush found fame after featuring as a teenaged pianist on ITV talent show Opportunity Knocks.

"The young people that don't

remember, I tell them it was the forerunner to The X Factor. It had the same impact on a career that X Factor does and it was great for me. Opportunity Knocks got me a recording contract, a six-album deal with Phillips records, plus an agent. It was a great start.

"We only had BBC 1, 2 and ITV. That was it. It wasn't diluted like it is now with satellite stations. You could get 17 million watching a week, these days that's unheard of. I went from £12 a week as an office boy to supporting Jack Jones at the London Palladium on £150 per week. In 1972, that was a lot of money. It really changed my life."

Influential play is brought up to date

In a collaboration between Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, 100 local performers will breathe new life into 19th century play Woyzeck, from June 15 to 23 at the Centenary Square theatre. Georg Büchner's Woyzeck has been described as one of the most influential plays ever written. In this new production directors Roxana Silbert and Rosie Kay, and writer Leo Butler, create a Woyzeck for our time. Woyzeck is the story of a young soldier who has started to hear voices in his head. Roxana Silbert, artistic director at Birmingham Rep, said: "Woyzeck is a powerful story that has been sharply brought up-to-date. It's about the impact of war on communities, the pressure on a young person trying to make ends meet and ultimately about how love can be devastatingly destroyed."

Take a Peaky as poet comes home

Poet and Peaky Blinders actor Benjamin Zephaniah has hit the road for his first solo UK tour in eight years, including a home date at Birmingham Town Hall next Friday, June 15. The Handsworth-born writer and broadcaster published his autobiography last month, entitled The Life And Rhymes Of Benjamin Zephaniah. "They say you're supposed to mellow with age but I haven't. If anything, I just seem to be getting more militant," says Zephaniah, who is honorary patron of The Vegan Society.



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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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CHOICE



Germaine Greer

Germaine Bloody Greer (BBC2, 9pm)
Profile of the writer and academic, whose 1970 book *The Female Eunuch* became an international bestseller and an important part of the feminist movement. The programme features previously unseen archive footage, while interviews with Greer reveal with typical honesty, candour and wit her thoughts on the days when the book was originally published, as well as her opinion on the MeToo movement. Camille Paglia, Zoe Heller and Rosie Boycott are among those sharing their opinions on the influence of *The Female Eunuch*.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** Trooping the Colour. **1.05** BBC News: Weather. **1.20** Triathlon: Nottingham Mixed Relay. **2.50** Athletics: Diamond League Oslo Highlights. **3.50** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.50** Escape to the Continent. (R) **5.50** BBC News.
6.00 Regional Programme.
6.05 **Film: Maleficent.** (2014) A fairy falls in love with an ambitious human nobleman, who betrays her in pursuit of claiming the throne. She swears to get revenge on him by placing a curse on his daughter, only to find herself developing a maternal bond with the girl. Fantasy adventure based on the story of *Sleeping Beauty*, starring Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning, Sharlto Copley and Imelda Staunton.
7.35 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman put an "international" spin on their unorthodox quiz show, by inviting famous faces from all over the world to team up. Seeking the least likely correct answers today are American singers Jimmy Osmond and Kym Mazelle, Irish pop duo Jedward, Singapore-born chef Nancy Lam and Australian comedian Sam Simmons, and Argentinean football coach Ossie Ardiles and Spanish sports journalist Guillem Balague. (R)
8.25 **Casualty.** Eddie discovers that Alicia has swapped all her shifts to avoid him, while Bea receives a phone call about her dad and leaves work to pick him up from the police station.
9.15 **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host a Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience. Inviting friends, family and special guests to join her in the sitting room, Mrs Brown stages mischievous stunts, and gives a few celebrity visitors a piece of her mind.
10.15 BBC News: Weather.
10.35 **Film: Thor: The Dark World.** (2013) Superhero adventure sequel, with Chris Hemsworth.
12.20 **The Button.** (R) **12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.50** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.20** The Pets Factor. **7.40** The Designers. **8.10** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.40** Beyond Bionic. **9.10** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.10** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **11.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.10** The World Cup: Heroes of '66. **12.45** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.30** The World According to Kids. (R) **2.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **3.30** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **4.30** Love in the Countryside. (R) **5.30** The River Wye with Will Millard.
6.00 **Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In?** Townley Grammar in Bexley, south-east London, is judged to be one of the best schools in the UK, while two miles down the road Erith School, a secondary modern, is striving to pick itself up after an Ofsted report that judged the school to require improvement. Erith's mixed-ability students include some with learning difficulties and others who resent authority. At Townley Grammar, there are far fewer such problems, and the school employs three full-time staff to help students cope with the pressure they put themselves under to keep up with their high-achieving peers. (R)
7.00 **Dad's Army.** The platoon is selected to appear in an army training film, but Captain Mainwaring refuses to take part when he finds out his men are to play Nazi soldiers. (R)
7.30 **Trooping the Colour Highlights.** The best of the annual pageant, which officially marks the birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II, performed by the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards on Horse Guards Parade. Huw Edwards introduces the highlights, with reports from JJ Chalmers.
9.00 **Germaine Bloody Greer.** Profile of the writer and academic, whose 1970 book *The Female Eunuch* became an international bestseller and an important part of the feminist movement.
10.00 **Girl's Guide to TV.**
10.45 **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.** Extended version of the music programme.
11.45 **Film: Made in Dagenham.** (2010) Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins.
1.30 This Is BBC Two. **5.55** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars: Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.40** Adventure Time. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.15** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The women's singles final at Roland Garros. **5.00** The Chase. (R)
6.00 ITV News: Weather.
6.15 **Regional Programme:** Weather.
6.30 **Ninja Warrior UK.** Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara present the final of the obstacle-course challenge. Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage, with those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK. Last in the series.
7.30 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** An unseen edition featuring the host's favourite moments from series two that did not make the final cut. Featuring Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond and Annika Rice. Last in the series.
8.00 **Take Me Out: Over 50s Special.** Paddy McGuinness hosts a special episode featuring women over 50, with a retired policeman, a hotelier and a dance teacher taking their turn in the love lift.
9.00 **Film: The Hangover.** (2009) Three men on a stag weekend in Las Vegas wake up after a night of heavy drinking and find they have not only misplaced the groom, but somehow gained a tiger and a baby. Unable to remember the details of the night before, they set about piecing the clues together in the hope of finding their missing friend. Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper.
10.55 ITV News: Weather.
11.15 **Play to the Whistle.** (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **6.45** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.10** Marathon: Swansea Half. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.10** Frasier. (R) **9.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** The Simpsons. (R) **11.05** The Simpsons. (R) **11.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.15** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.45** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.20** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 News.
6.15 **Grand Designs.** Following the work of Ed and Rowena Waghorn as they continue to build a handcrafted, five-bedroom house on an eight acre smallholding in Herefordshire, 10 years in the making. Progress on the build was slow as Ed decided to do most of the work himself, and after four years the house is still a shell. Now, years later, is it possible this house may finally become a medieval masterpiece? (R)
7.10 **The World's Wildest Weather.** Footage shot by members of the public of unusual and dangerous weather from around the world, including Alpine avalanches and cyclones in the South Pacific. The programme features first-hand accounts of the events featured and scientific analysis of the footage and how the strange weather conditions came about. (R)
8.10 **Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v Wales (Kick-off 8.40pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the first of two Tests, which takes place at the Estadio San Juan del Bicentenario. Wales have won five of the last six meetings between the nations, but all of those matches were in Cardiff, and Argentina won both contests when the Welsh last visited South America in 2006. With commentary by Eddie Butler and Martyn Williams, and analysis from Ugo Monye, Shane Williams and Thinus Delpoit.
10.55 **Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.**
12.25 **Film: The Watch.** (2012) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.20** Mr Kitchen Rules. (R) **5.15** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.20** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.15** Rich House, Poor House: The Big Surprise. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)
6.10 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents try to evict a woman who owes £5,000 in unpaid rent, and meet a man who says he cannot pay a £7,000 debt, despite having a garage full of expensive tools. (R)
7.00 **Building the London Underground.** The technologies that have helped make the Tube the second-biggest metro system in the world, from tunnel-boring methods to building vast subterranean stations. (R)
7.55 **5 News Weekend.**
8.00 **Secrets of the Valley of the Kings.** An exploration of the Valley of the Kings, the royal necropolis of the pharaohs and the world's most famous royal burial ground. Egyptologists investigate what drove Egypt's greatest pharaohs to seek out this secluded valley to hide their remains, how ancient craftsmen managed to achieve such feats of engineering and keep pace with the ever-shifting designs, and why was the sacred site was finally abandoned. Narrated by Mark Halliley. (R)
9.00 **Secrets of Tutankhamun's Treasures.** Items found in Tutankhamun's tomb that paint a picture of his family, including mummified babies – the offspring of an incestuous relationship with his sister.
10.00 **Alexander the Great's Lost Tomb.** The search for the lost tomb of Alexander the Great, the Macedonian warlord, which has eluded experts for nearly 2,000 years. Archaeologist Dr Nick Saunders follows the clues.
11.05 **The Ten Plagues of Egypt: Ancient Mysteries.** How ash from a volcanic eruption may have triggered a deadly domino effect, turning the Nile red and making its waters toxic and explaining the biblical tale of the 10 plagues. (R)
12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Secrets of the Chocolate Factory: Inside Cadbury. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Burrowers: Animals Underground **8.00** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **9.00** Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.00** Big in America: British Hits in the USA **1.00** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **2.00** I Was There: Kate Adie on Tiananmen Square **3.00** How to Get Ahead: At Versailles **4.00** Close
ITV2
12.05 Celebrity Catchphrase **1.05** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **2.10** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **4.20** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **6.25** Film: Battleship (2012) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: Battleship (2012) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.10** Celebrity Juice: Just the Tip **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.05 A Touch of Frost **3.00** Film: Columbo Undercover (1994) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.05** On the Buses **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.30 Football's Foreign Legion **12.30** Storage Wars: Texas **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Haydock. Coverage from Haydock Park, Musselburgh and Newmarket. **4.20** Storage Wars **4.50** Live French Open Tennis. The men's doubles final at Roland Garros. **7.00** Isle of Man TT **10.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **11.00** Film: The Departed (2006) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: The Departed (2006) **2.00** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **11.45** The Goldbergs **1.45** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.15** Young Sheldon **2.40** The Big Bang Theory **7.15** Film: The Hunger Games (2012) **10.10** Film: I, Frankenstein (2014) **11.50** Gogglebox **2.00** Tattoo Fixers **3.00** Rude Tube **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube **4.45** How I Met Your Mother **Film4**
11.00 Fletch (1985) **1.00** The Rewrite (2014) **3.10** Hotel for Dogs (2009) **5.10** Carry On Jack (1963) **6.55** Last Vegas (2013) **9.00** The Monuments Men (2014) **11.20** An American Werewolf in London (1981) **1.15** Boy (2010) **3.05** Close

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CHOICE



Eleanor Tomlinson & Josh Whitehouse

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. The period drama returns for a fourth series, which sees the country plunged into uncertainty when the prime minister calls an election. George Warleggan's reign as member for Truro has had a devastating impact on the city, and Hugh is determined to displace him. Rioting erupts on the streets, which results in Zacky's son and the Carnes brothers being accused of murder, while Ross is helpless to intervene. The Enyses consider having a child, and Demelza seeks to reconcile two rival local lords. Period drama, starring Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Christian Brassington, Ellise Chappell, Beatie Edney, Jack Farthing, Luke Norris, Heida Reed and Harry Richardson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 BBC News; Weather. 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 Points of View. 1.15 Lifetime. 1.25 Songs of Praise. 2.00 Britain Celebrates Live: 100 Years of Women's Votes. 4.00 Who Do You Think You Are? (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Home Cook. (R)
6.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave. Nick Park's animated characters embark on their third adventure, which sees Wallace fall in love and Gromit framed for sheep rustling. With the voices of Peter Sallis and Anne Reid. (R)
6.30 BBC News.
6.45 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. The last of three royal specials from the Sandringham estate, where the first ever Christmas broadcast was recorded. Matt Baker meets the head gardener to discover how the trees are shaped to look their best in winter. Adam Henson delves into the history of blackcurrant harvesting, and Ellie Harrison joins the head gamekeeper in a tour of the estate's various wildlife habitats.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a special episode from the Houses of Parliament celebrating the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote, examining artefacts connected to remarkable women throughout British history, including leading suffragist Millicent Fawcett, photographer Christina Broom, secret agent Violette Szabo, gymnast Florence Atwood and polar explorers Ann Daniels and Caroline Hamilton.
9.00 Poldark. New series. The country is plunged into uncertainty during an election, and a riot erupts in Truro – leaving Zacky's son accused of murder, while Ross is helpless to intervene.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Our Friend Victoria. (R)
11.00 Suffragettes with Lucy Worsley. The historian examines the battle that women had to wage for the right to vote, following the stories of young working class suffragettes who rebelled against Edwardian society. (R)
12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Gardeners' World. (R) 7.40 Countryfile. (R) 8.35 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.05 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 10.35 Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) 11.20 Harry Bikers' Best of British. (R) 12.20 The World Cup: Hopes of a Nation. 10.00 Triathlon: World Series – Leeds. The ITU World Series meeting from Leeds.
6.00 Dragons' Den. Jenny Campbell, Peter Jones, Jet Lalvani, Deborah Meaden and Touker Suleyman assess the profit-making potential of more business plans, including a range of story books intended to help children learn other languages, skin care products made out of hemp, and a solution to pain caused by halter neck straps. (R)
7.00 Million Pound Menu. Fred Sirieix presents the fine dining challenge which follows people who work in the food business as they seek major investment to launch their own restaurants. (R)
8.00 Journey in the Danger Zone: Iraq. Part two of two. Adnan Sarwar joins a party of pilgrims on a journey to the Holy Shrines of Kerbala, and visits one of several visitor cities built to house the thousands who come to the sacred site each year. He then moves on to Fallujah, where he visits a school for children with hearing and speech disabilities, and goes behind the scenes on a controversial TV show in which prisoners are made to apologise for their crimes on air.
9.00 Frankie Goes to Russia. Part two of two.
10.00 Atlanta. Paper Boi becomes the hip hop world's poster-child for toxic masculinity and transphobia after he makes some offensive Tweets about Caitlyn Jenner, and ends up on a talk show.
10.20 Atlanta. Paper Boi secures a gig playing a club, but neither he nor Earn are keen on the prospect, especially when they fall foul of a ruthless promoter unwilling to pay his dues.
10.50 Girl's Guide to TV. (R)
11.35 Athletics: Diamond League Stockholm Highlights. The Bauhaus-Galan. Action from the sixth Diamond League event of the season, which was held at Stockholm Olympic Stadium.
12.35 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)
1.35 Holly City. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.35 Dino Dana. (R) 6.55 The Oddbods Show. (R) 7.05 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) 7.30 The Haunted Hathaways. (R) 7.55 Drop Dead Weird. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Zoe Ball On Sunday. 9.25 The Queen's Coronation in Colour. (R) 10.20 How to Spend It Well: House and Garden with Phillip Schofield. (R) 11.20 The Best of the Voice Worldwide. 12.20 ITV News; Weather. 12.30 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 1.30 Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final at Roland Garros. 5.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. (R) 6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.30 Soccer Aid for UNICEF 2018. England v World XI (Kick-off 8.00pm). Kirsty Gallacher and Dermot O'Leary host live coverage of the annual football match between teams of celebrities and professional athletes to raise money for children's charity Unicef. The game is played at Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium, with England captain Robbie Williams taking on a team led by Usain Bolt. Among the players are Mo'Nique, Gordon Ramsay, Ollie Murs, and Eric Cantona, returning to his former home turf. Featuring live music from Jessie Ware. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport. The Border Force pull over a Ghanaian businessman declaring £114,000 in cash. A blind date takes place in the airport. (R)
10.50 Football's Foreign Legion. Forty years on from the first wave of foreign footballers, this is the story of those pioneering players and their legacy.
11.50 Great Art. Tim Marlow reflects on the American Impressionist movement, which was inspired by great French masters including Claude Monet. Narrated by Gillian Anderson. Last in the series. (R)
12.45 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 Eat the Week. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) 1.30 The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 Film: Volcano. (1997) Disaster thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones. 4.35 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.35 Bang on Budget.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel look ahead to wedding season, with eight couples booking the chateau for their big day. Dick also converts a stone barn into a flat for Angel's parents, getting rid of 150 years' worth of rubbish in the process, but tensions rise between the couple when he gets carried away with the trees at the front of the property. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen put the remaining teams to the test with a secret recipe challenge, then gives them a chance to impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin with their showmanship by making a chocolate showpiece inspired by the theme of the four seasons.
9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. A baby shower provokes a troubling shift in Offred's relationship with Serena Joy, and prompts her to reckon with the choice she made that led her to become a Handmaid.
10.10 8 Out of 10 Cats. Aisling Bea is joined by Joel Dommett and James Acaster, while Rob Beckett teams up with Joe Swash and Roisin Conaty to discuss memorable moments from school. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)
10.40 Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the seventh round of the season at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal. Lewis Hamilton was looking for a fourth successive victory in this race and seventh overall.
12.40 Film: The Man with the Iron Fists. (2012) Martial arts adventure, starring RZA. 2.15 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) 3.10 Building the Dream. (R) 4.05 My Kitchen Rules. (R) 5.00 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) 5.05 Cheap Cheap Cheap. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess. 6.10 Wissper. (R) 6.20 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) 6.40 Moly. (R) 6.45 Simon. (R) 6.50 Only the Little White Van. (R) 7.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 7.05 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.15 Thomas & Friends. (R) 7.35 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.50 Rusty Rivets. (R) 8.05 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.20 Nella the Princess Knight. (R) 8.35 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.55 Floggals. (R) 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.20 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.40 Digby Dragon. (R) 9.55 Peppa Pig. (R) 10.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.45 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) 11.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.05 Film: Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. 3.05 Access. 3.10 Film: Holes. (2003) Concluded. 4.30 FIA Formula E Live. The Zurich ePrix.
6.15 World's Scariest Animal Attacks
2. Terrifying animal encounters caught on camera, including the moment sharks turned on a free-diving father and son, and a 500lb elephant seal that reacted violently when intimidated. (R)
7.00 Cricket on 5. Scotland v England.
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard. A look at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, following the lives of some of the workers who keep the wheels turning and the passengers happy on one of the world's most popular steam lines. To pull in the punters in, star engine Royal Scot is hired to headline for a week and for general manager Chris it's an expensive gamble as this big and powerful engine was designed to thunder on mainline rails, while the heritage railway has much smaller platforms and bridges. Until Royal Scot arrives and goes through a gauging run on the line, they won't know if she will actually fit the railway. (R)
9.00 The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard. The start of the Easter timetable at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway finds marketing manager Laura devising a stunt to capitalise on the Tour de Yorkshire cycling race. (R)
10.00 Top of the Box 1978 with Matthew Kelly. Last in the series.
12.05 The Best of Bad TV: The 70s. (R) 1.55 SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways 8.00 Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel 9.00 Swallowed by the Sea – Ancient Egypt's Greatest Lost City 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 Horizon: Cosmic Dawn – The Real Moment of Creation 11.30 Civilisations Stories: King Coal 12.00 Ego: The Strange and Wonderful World of Self-Portraits 1.30 Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways 2.30 Swallowed by the Sea – Ancient Egypt's Greatest Lost City 3.30 Close
ITV2
12.20 Take Me Out 1.35 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 2.40 FYI Daily 2.45 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 3.20 Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) 4.25 FYI Daily 4.30 Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) 5.10 Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) 6.10 FYI Daily 6.15 Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) 7.05 Film: Legally Blonde (2001) 8.05 FYI Daily 8.10 Film: Legally Blonde (2001) 9.00 Love Island 10.00 Love Island: Afternoon 11.05 Family Guy 12.30 American Dad! 1.25 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.25 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.55 A Touch of Frost 3.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 5.00 Vera 9.00 Unforgotten 11.00 Wire in the Blood 1.00 Blue Murder 2.20 Liverpool 1 3.20 Road to Avonlea 5.05 George and Mildred
ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. 6.00 Snooker v Darts 6.10 The Chase Celebrity Special 7.15 River Monsters 8.15 Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) 9.15 FYI Daily 9.20 Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) 10.00 Cycling: Critérium du Dauphiné Highlights 11.00 Film: Death Wish 2 (1981) 12.00 FYI Daily 12.05 Film: Death Wish 2 (1981) 12.50 Fifth Gear
E4
12.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 12.50 Young Sheldon 1.20 The Big Bang Theory 6.20 Film: Hulk (2003) 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Gogglebox 11.00 Gogglebox Australia 12.05 The Big Bang Theory
Film4
11.00 The Ladykillers (1955) 1.00 Rugrats Go Wild (2003) 2.40 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 4.20 The Longest Ride (2015) 6.50 Crocodile Dundee II (1983) 9.00 The Bourne Legacy (2012) 11.40 Starred Up (2013) 1.50 Summer in February (2013) 4.00 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Cry for Justice, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 When her son is falsely accused of murder, Jackie fights against the odds to free him. While he languishes in prison while the prosecution seeks a life sentence, their lives are sent on differing paths of wavering faith and tentative hope. Drama, based on a true story, starring Francine Locke and Drew Matthews. (2013)

TUESDAY
The Wrong Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 Couple Kate and Joe, who have longed to be parents together, are delighted when Danica, a child Kate gave up 17 years ago, comes to stay. Thriller, starring Cindy Busby, Jon Prescott and Sierra Pond. (2018)

WEDNESDAY
Strangers in Amish Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A military nurse returns from a tour of duty in Afghanistan to her family's farm in rural Ohio, and falls for an Amish neighbour after an intruder wreaks havoc. Romantic drama, starring Jes Macallan, Sean Faris and Kelly McGillis. (2017)



The Wolf of Wall Street, Friday, Channel 4, 11.40pm

THURSDAY
Lethal Admirer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A woman moves across the country to rebuild her life after the tragic death of her boyfriend. She is pleasantly surprised to run into an old colleague and the two become firm friends, but things soon take a turn for the worse when he sets out to win her heart - by any means necessary. Thriller, starring Karissa Lee Staples, Drew Seeley and Brian Ames. (2018)

FRIDAY
The Wolf of Wall Street, Channel 4, 11.40pm
 A New York stockbroker rises from unemployment to become one of the richest men in the city's financial elite through an illegal scheme to defraud investors. His wealth brings him an outrageously debauched lifestyle, but comes at a price as the FBI become suspicious of his manipulation of the markets. Martin Scorsese's fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Matthew McConaughey. (2013)

Georgie finds herself in the firing line once again

The new series of military drama Our Girl began last week, but it seems that star Michelle Keegan is still getting over the events of the previous run.

That's when her on-screen fiancée Elvis Harte (Luke Pasquillano) was killed in an explosion, leaving her character Georgie Lane heartbroken.

Keegan says that Georgie will continue to grieve for him throughout the series: "She's had six months out for compassionate leave and is now throwing herself into work. She's definitely not over Elvis at all and you'll see throughout the episodes that his death has really affected her."

It's also been a tough time for the actress. She says: "It was really, really strange. Luke and I started on the series at the same time together and it was so odd when he left. It was like a hole and I definitely missed him."

"We literally started the next episode the day after Elvis died. Luke left on a Thursday and on a

Friday we started to film episode five. It took a long time for me to adjust as all our storylines were always based around Georgie and Elvis and the 'will they, won't they' situation."

At least the actress, who first found fame as feisty Tina on Coronation Street, can take some comfort in the fact that she wasn't the only one affected by the storyline - Our Girl fans were also devastated by Elvis's death.

She says: "I was in Malaysia at the time and it was 6am when it aired in the UK. I looked at my phone and it had gone crazy."

"What was great was that it hadn't been released that Elvis was going to get killed so it was obviously a massive shock for the audience who follow the story. I just remember that all the women's hearts on Twitter were broken that night."

However, in this second episode, Georgie may not get too much time to dwell on Elvis, as she meets undercover Special Forces

operative, Bones (Oliver Rix) - and he doesn't make the best first impression.

Keegan explains: "They get off to a rocky start as Georgie sees him in Nigeria where he throws a child out of his way. But obviously goodie two shoes Georgie won't stand for that and ends up confronting him."

She adds: "You soon see that he is the Head of Special Forces and has taken over Elvis' role but he is totally different. He's very angry all the time, very old school and isn't emotionally led, he also hasn't got a friendship with Captain James. However, you see him and 2 Section build a relationship which is really exciting."

And there's even more drama, as 2-Section try to trade the detained son of a rebel leader for an imprisoned Nigerian military medic, unaware their captors are setting a trap. It leads to a tense stand-off, but will everyone make it out alive this time, or is Keegan going to have to deal with more early morning messages from fans?



Michelle Keegan stars in Our Girl, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

THURSDAY
FIFA World Cup 2018
ITV, 3.45pm
 Russia v Saudi Arabia (Kick-off 4.00pm). Mark Pougach presents coverage of the Group A match, the opening game of the tournament, which takes place at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. This is only Russia's third appearance in a World Cup this century after failing to qualify for the tournaments in 2006 and 2010. Their last effort in 2014 saw them fail to get out of the group stage, drawing two games and losing one, but as hosts they'll be expecting to go much further this time around. This afternoon will see them face Saudi Arabia for the first time since October 1993, when they lost 4-2 in Riyadh in a friendly match. Juan Antonio Pizzi's side are playing in only their fifth World Cup and will be looking to at least match their previous best finish, which saw them reach the last 16 at the 1994 tournament in the USA.

FRIDAY
The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special
Channel 4, 9pm
 Richard Ayoade presides as Dennis Wise, Roman Kemp, Binky Felstead, Bez and Katie Price compete around the four zones, tackling various challenges to win crystals.

a live summer special from Warwick Castle. The programme features money-saving tips aiming to help consumers cope with the season's current economic climate. Plus, as this is a summer special, there is bound to be tips for viewers hoping to get the most out of their Euros, Dollars and Zloty, as well as a clarification of data roaming charges, and suggestions if your flight gets delayed. As usual, Martin is keen for everyone to join in, so whether you have a query on travel insurance, car hire or currency, have your questions at the ready.

WEDNESDAY
The Fast Fix: Diabetes
ITV, 9pm
 There was a time when it was thought that Type 2 diabetes was a medical life sentence, but as viewers of The One Show will have seen recently, that's not the case. In the first of a two-part strand, Anita Rani examines how people with the condition attempt to reverse it by living on a radical liquid diet. It could potentially save their lives and the NHS billions of pounds. Here cameras follow five overweight patients as they move into an experimental

diabetes reversal unit. There they live on a diet of just 800 calories a day for four weeks. They attempt to shed more than two stones, hopefully improve their lives, and no doubt offer a large dose of hope for viewers in a similar situation.

FIFA World Cup 2018 Preview
BBC1, 10.45pm
 Gary Lineker is joined by Alan Shearer and Jermaine Jenas to look ahead to the tournament in Russia, assessing the chances of the leading contenders in the 21st staging of the finals. The chances of England, the only home nation to qualify this time around, are assessed, while the trio offer their thoughts on which nations have the greatest chance of glory, and which players are likely to shine. Germany were victorious four years ago in Brazil and are among the leading contenders.



The Martin Lewis Money Show Live, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

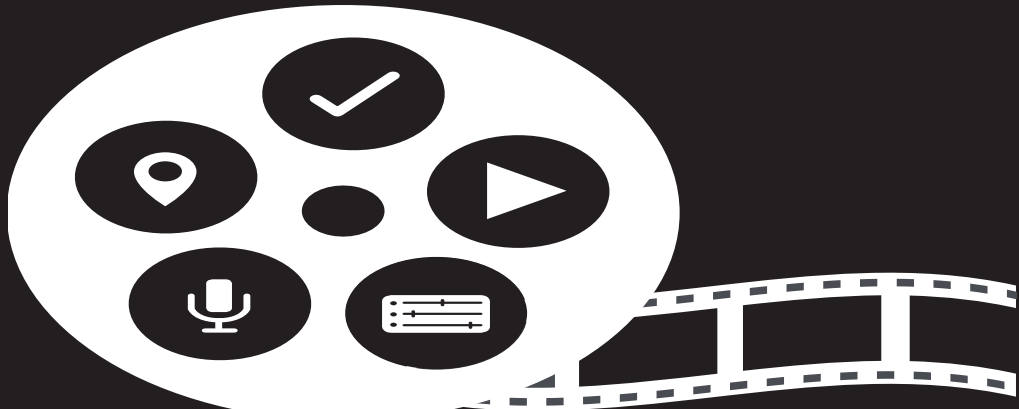
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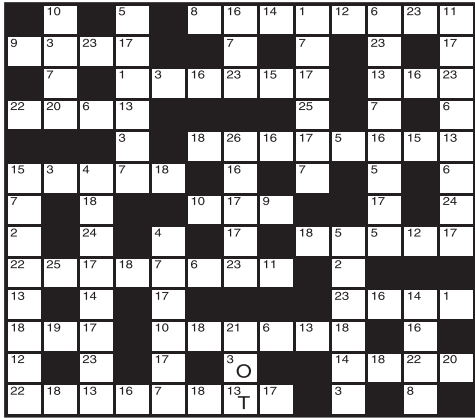


BRAIN GYM

No.483

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	I	P	R	F	K	N	Z	Y	M	S	O	Q
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	X	B	C	L	G	D	A	J	U	V	H	W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

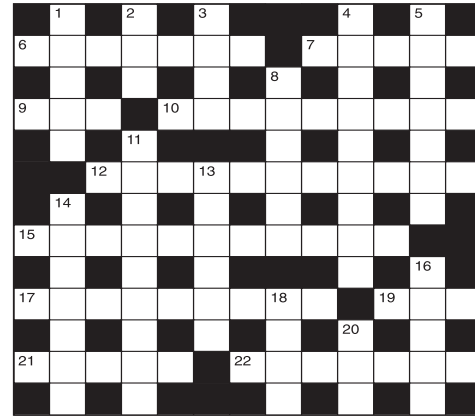
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Race movement begins under his orders (7)
7. Each one always yawns initially (5)
9. The last of the screen dramas (3)
10. Fruit used in mimicking on stage (9)
12. Shows off mannequin - racing type, perhaps (6,5)
15. Like a heavenly show? (4-7)
17. Cavil about being unpunctual, but waver (9)
19. Be prostrate as story? (3)
21. Started, for example, in prohibition (5)
22. Obligatory process in book production (7)

Down

1. Candidates do so before they can sit (5)
2. Vessel seen in colour, no doubt (3)
3. Retain part of the castle (4)
4. Subdue because of strength? (9)
5. He can't do without glasses (7)
8. Learner relieved - it's on hire (6)
11. Ails appal in estimation of value (9)
13. Plaything under which there could be a snake (6)
14. In which cooking may be done at sea? (7)
16. They have their pride, of course (5)
18. Stumble on excursion? (4)
20. Strange ring worn by theologian (3)



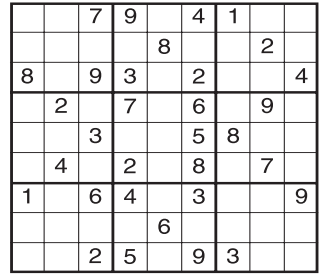
Across

6. Lawfully (7)
7. Polite (5)
9. Twisted (3)
10. Consequent (9)
12. Chance (11)
15. Despondent (11)
17. Impassiveness (9)
19. Pledge (3)
21. Brag (5)
22. Chief (7)

Down

1. Memorise (5)
2. Manner (3)
3. Merriment (4)
4. Spirit-maker (9)
5. Stateliness (7)
8. Figure (6)
11. Innumerable (9)
13. Nimble (6)
14. Manage (7)
16. Ascend (5)
18. Pour (4)
20. Append (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	7	2	5	4	9	6	1	8
6	8	1	7	3	2	9	5	4
9	5	4	1	6	8	2	7	3
2	3	9	6	5	1	8	4	7
1	6	5	8	7	4	3	2	9
7	4	8	2	9	3	5	6	1
8	1	6	3	2	7	4	9	5
4	2	7	9	8	5	1	3	6
5	9	3	4	1	6	7	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Shooting stars; 8 Greenfly; 9 Tilt; 10 Corset; 12 Ordeal; 14 Ashore; 16 Keenly; 18 Miss; 20 Tenacity; 22 Covered market. Down: 1 Cheroots; 2 Lovers; 3 Tiff; 4 Ugly look; 5 Stated; 6 Oral; 11 Twenties; 13 Aisle-tree; 15 Ousted; 17 Errors; 19 Iron; 21 Memo.
QUICK - Across: 7 Conscientious; 8 Assessor; 9 Ormen; 10 Bitter; 12 Nature; 14 Defect; 16 Enigma; 18 Shut; 20 Friendly; 22 Uninteresting. Down: 1 Conspire; 2 Assert; 3 Wits; 4 Entrance; 5 Fit out; 6 Lure; 11 Ratified; 13 Rambling; 15 Extent; 17 Ignite; 19 Hang; 21 Idea.

Quiz

1. On which river does Ipswich lie?
2. With which art form is Pina Bausch connected?
3. Which European capital is divided by the Attila line?
4. In biology, what do two gametes merge to form?
5. What is the biggest British vessel ever lost at sea?
6. To which English king was Hans Holbein the Younger court painter?
7. After which battle is the East Sussex town Battle named?
8. Who played James Bond in The World Is Not Enough?
9. Of what is the morel a type?
10. Which sea lies between Italy and Greece?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 P.W. Botha; 2 Asthma; 3 Iris; 4 Grouse; 5 Irene; 6 St. Trinian's; 7 George Fox; 8 1086; 9 Unification Church; 10 Aled Jones.

Niner: MERCHANTS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

624789
47335
35319

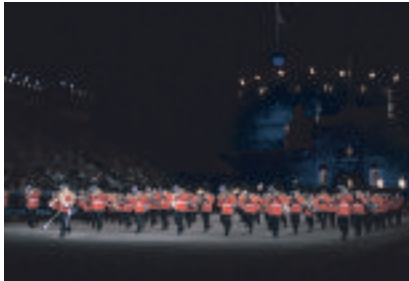
gives a religious person,
gives a religious person,
gives a religious text.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Edinburgh Tattoo

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- ✓ Free time in Leeds & Harrogate

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£135



Pickering 1940's War-time Weekend

Departing Saturday 13 Oct

From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel
- ✓ Full day in Pickering during the War-time Weekend

2 Days
By Coach only
£99



Classical Spectacular

at the Royal Albert Hall

Departing Saturday 24 Nov

From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast
- ✓ Ticket to the Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall (Choir section)
- ✓ Free time in London

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Tune into the eat and greet events

BOOK your tickets, slap on the sunblock and get ready to eat. If you love strolling around outside, listening to live music while tucking into artisan pizzas and scoffing huge burgers with sauce that drips down your arms, you'll certainly want to attend a few of these food festivals over the coming months.

LATITUDE, Henham Park, Suffolk, July 12-15 (latitudefestival.com)

Latitude is scrapping fast food vans in favour of proper street food, with their Street Feast this year. Tuck into pregos (Portuguese steak sandwiches) from Growlers, Argentine meats from Up In My Grill and beef short ribs from Salt Shed. Be sure to grab a seat at a live recording of BBC Radio 4's The Kitchen Cabinet with restaurant critic and MasterChef judge, Jay Rayner, too.

JIMMY'S FESTIVAL, Ipswich, July 21-22 (jimmysfestival.co.uk) Whether you're entering the festival's much-hyped sausage eating competition or not (go on, you know you want to), you can learn butchery with Jimmy Doherty's head butcher Jonny Farrell, and catch cookery demos from vegan YouTube aficionados BOSH! and grill expert, DJ BBQ.

WILDERNESS, Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire, August 2-5 (wildernessfestival.com)

It's all about banqueting in style at Wilderness Festival – especially as Yotam Ottolenghi will be in the kitchen. If you can't nab a much-coveted seat though, there's endless feasting opportunities, whether you're a carnivore (Berber & Q, Patty & Bun) or animal free (try a huge Homeslice pizza or Petersham Nurseries' seasonal vegetarian menus).

PUB IN THE PARK, Tunbridge Wells (July 6-8), Knutsford (September 7-9), (pubintheparkuk.com)

The Big Feastival is held in the Cotswolds



Chef Tom Kerridge's festival celebrating British pubs and British grub is going on tour this year. As well as live sets from Will Young and Mel C, you can check out 'gastro pub pop-up' versions of Tom's Michelin-starred restaurants, and see chefs James Martin, Jason Atherton (amongst others) and Atul Kochhar showcasing their trade.

THE BIG FEASTIVAL, The Cotswolds, August 24-26 (thebigfeestival.com)

Roll up to Blur bassist Alex James' farm for Craig David, James Arthur and Basement Jaxx, as well as

a serious roster of chef talent. Raymond Blanc, Marco Pierre White, Mark Hix and Gizzi Erskine will all be sharing their knowledge; there's hands-on kitchen fun for the kids, and (of course) a cheese bar – Alex is obsessed with his cheese.

The festival is perfect for families with plenty of kid-friendly entertainment and activities such as Peppa Pig and her brother George, and CBeebies stars Justin Fletcher and Andy Day.

RIVER COTTAGE FESTIVAL, Axminster, August 25-26 (rivercottage.net)

Latitude Festival combines great food and music



Not yet got to grips with pickling? You'll want to catch the fermentation masterclass at this year's River Cottage Festival, if you can manage to drag yourself away from the fire pit, where goat meat pioneer James Whetlor will be hosting cook outs.

ABERGAVENNY FOOD FESTIVAL, Wales, September 15-16 (abergavennyfoodfestival.com)

Whip your tastebuds into shape with Abergavenny's expert tasting sessions, take a foraging tour (then use what you've collected) and spot chefs including Anna Jones, and Stephen Harris from the Sportsman.

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Ford's EcoSport gets update with plenty to appreciate

By Carmel Stewart

Ford's EcoSport compact sports utility vehicle didn't get the rave reviews hoped for when it was first launched in 2014. Critics didn't like the interior materials, the design, the ride, the handling. In fact, bar the engines, there was very little they did like.

Roll up the extensively revamped mid-life version with an even more comprehensive engine line-up plus improved ride, handling and looks which have just about managed to hold on to the distinctive features, saving it from being subsumed by the one-look-fits-all-SUV school of design. There is also the addition of 4WD version which should boost its appeal.

The engine line-up still includes Ford's excellent multi-award winning 1.0litre EcoBoost engine strutting its amazing stuff across the Ford range. With 125ps at its disposal it'll travel from a standing start to 62mph in 12.7 seconds and on to a top speed of 111mph. Clearly not a world beater but more than enough for a practical family vehicle and, with an average 54.3mpg, it's not too hard on the wallet. A 100ps and 140ps unit are also available.

Ford's 1.5litre 100ps diesel engine combined with front-wheel drive is on the option list along with an all-new, six-speed manual gearbox. Joining the list is an all-new 1.5litre 125ps diesel EcoBlue engine which now adds Intelligent All Wheel Drive technology to the mix so no complaints there.

The design has been perked up with more colour options, a redesigned front end, new headlight and fog



There's a redesigned front end

light housings, LED daytime running lights, a new-look rear bumper and rear taillight design. There are also 12 exterior colours to choose from.

Thankfully, the designers have not relinquished the quirky side-hinged rear door – albeit opening the wrong way for a right-hand-drive vehicle. Many do not like it but, to me, it adds character which can be enhanced by selecting the new ST-Line trim and going for a contrasting roof colour.

Inside, the EcoSport is a comfortable place to be with soft touch surfaces, plenty of storage spaces, ergonomically designed seats, a high driving position, a user-friendly eight-inch touch screen and mercifully uncomplicated dash. Ford has added seven choices of ambient lighting so 'occupants can match the ambience to their mood'. Not sure how that will pan out on the M1 on a Friday evening, but nice try.

One slightly old-fashioned feature to smooth the furrowed brow – at least of anyone over 50 – is the inclusion of a CD player – a delight to those for whom streaming is a technological mystery. The height adjustable boot space is 334 litres, more than enough for a family shop or carefully selected holiday luggage.

The addition of an ST-Line trim, which includes SYNC 3, adding all the essential Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity gizmos, cruise control with adjustable speed limiter and a rear-view camera to save the unwary from those sneaky low walls and strategically placed boulders, is another plus for the new EcoSport.

Visual exterior ST-Line cues include unique bumpers, side skirts, black roof rails, 17-inch alloys, ST-Line badging, contrasting roof and colour co-ordinated door mirror housings. Inside, there is a leather-trimmed flat-bottomed steering wheel plus partial leather seats featuring red stitching, ST-Line branded scuff plates and stainless-steel sports pedals.

Prices start at £17,295 for the Zetec trim; £19,295 for the Titanium trim; and £20,095 for the ST-Line trim.

On the road, the revised EcoSport is comfortable and composed thanks to the optimised suspension and adjusted steering parameters. The ST-Line adds sports suspension which firms up the ride but not uncomfortably so. Ford's incredible 1.0litre EcoBoost engine eagerly responds to all demands made on it, well-matched as it is to the six-speed manual gearbox. An automatic transmission is also available.

So, all in all, nothing to complain about and plenty to enjoy.



The design has been perked up with more colour options

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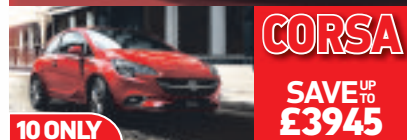
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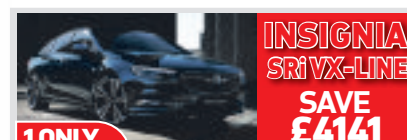
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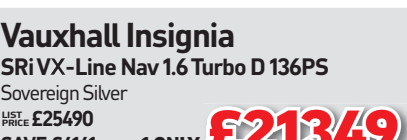
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There is now more choice of engines

New petrol option for DS7 Crossback

Buyers in the market for a new DS 7 Crossback now have more choice when it comes to powertrains, thanks to the addition of a petrol engine to the SUV's range.

The French machine is now available with PSA's PureTech 225 turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine, which currently sees action in the Peugeot 308. It's paired with an eight-speed automatic gearbox and develops 222bhp along with 300Nm of torque.

It'll take the DS 7 Crossback from 0-60mph in 8.1 seconds and on to a top speed of 141mph. As for efficiency, a number of technologies feature on the powertrain to help keep fuel economy high and emissions low.

These include the addition of a particulate filter and 'ECO' function on the gearbox that allows for free-wheeling between 12 and 80mph. The result is a claimed 48.7mpg on a combined cycle with CO2 emissions of 135g/km.

Available to order now, the PureTech 225 engine is offered on Prestige, Ultra Prestige and Performance Line trims of the DS 7 Crossback — with prices starting at £34,990.

There's another powertrain to come for the French SUV, too. It'll be a petrol-electric hybrid, sending 296bhp through all four wheels. Full information on this electrified set-up will be revealed in due course.

McLaren 720s adds to its trophy cabinet



More international approval for the 720S

The McLaren 720S has added to its trophy haul by winning the top Best of the Best category of the 2018 Red Dot Design Awards. It is the second time that a new McLaren has been awarded the international seal of outstanding design quality, following the recognition of the McLaren 570S Coupé in 2016.

It was singled out by the 40 international judges for its "innovative symbiosis of aesthetics and function". Criteria for the competition, which is one of the world's largest design contests, include innovation, functionality, formal quality, ergonomics and durability. Of the 6,300 products from 59 countries vying for the ultimate Red Dot title in 2018, just one per cent were chosen as worthy of the Best of the Best title.

Additionally, the McLaren 720S was named Car of the Year at the Vehicle Dynamics International Awards 2018. Since its unveiling at the 2017 International Geneva Motor Show, the McLaren has 720S received a worldwide critical-acclaim including numerous awards and five-star reviews from key opinion leaders, as well as globally-read lifestyle and motoring media.

"To have the McLaren 720S design recognised as the Best of the Best by the Red Dot Awards jury is a great honour for us," said Rob Melville, design director at McLaren Automotive. "McLaren is always brave in its approach and the 720S is the perfect expression of that innovative culture. The number of various design, product and engineering awards received by the car is a real testament to the quality of the team back in Woking and highlights the irresistible, all-round appeal of this incredible vehicle."

Bobber Black the ultimate incarnation of the range

By John Griffiths

Triumph are masters of the art of marrying retro-styling with thoroughly modern and sophisticated motorcycles.

Its wide Bonneville range has proved enduringly popular with riders, with variations such as a larger, 1,200cc engine option, a scrambler and café racer broadening its appeal.

Last year it launched another model based on the same mechanicals – the Bobber reflecting the stripped down machines of the post war years – and now there's the ultimate incarnation, the Bobber Black special edition.

The £11,650 machine is, as the name suggests, nearly all black including the twin exhausts. But don't think this is some sort of stealth machine – you will get noticed!

The 'bobber' style, also known as a bobtail or cut-down, refers to a type of bike stripped of all excess bodywork to reduce weight and increase performance.

Triumph's custom classic has the looks but don't be deceived: the 'carburetors', for example, conceal a modern fuel injection system and the rear suspension (the originals were normally 'hard tails') is hidden beneath the large and comfortably shaped single seat.

And our fathers and grandfathers could never have dreamed of a Bobber which comes with road and rain riding modes, torque assist clutch, switchable traction control and ABS to help keep you safe.

Plus there's a comprehensive rider information computer and a single-button cruise control.

At the heart of each Bobber model is Triumph's proven 1,200cc twin, albeit retuned to produce more of its power and torque at lower revs than that of the Bonneville T120.

It helps to reinforce the nostalgic nature of the Bobber, as its deep, lazy, growl is strangely reminiscent of a classic big single British bike of yesteryear. The riding position is classic, too – you're upright, with a straight back and the low (690mm) seat makes it manageable for riders of all sizes. You can adjust the seat's position.

There's some vibration too, although not enough to cause discomfort – you tend to forget about it after a few miles.

The engine turns out 76bhp but its real ability comes from its 106Nm of torque. It pulls strongly from low revs and cruises effortlessly, without the need to be constantly swapping cogs. That's not difficult though, thanks to the slick six-speed box.

The Bobber is fairly low which may deter fans of knee-down cornering, but it's not that type of bike. Speed humps required some care, too.



At the heart of each Bobber model is Triumph's proven 1,200cc twin

Braking is reassuringly modern, too, with a twin-disc Brembo set up at the front and ABS.

The suspension has a pair of Showa forks at the front and a concealed KYB monoshock at the rear. The set-up on the test bike resulted in a firm ride, but a high degree of stability both in a straight line and around the twisty bits.

The Bobber Black is a distinctive machine – I can't think of anything like it – but you can go the whole hog with a range of themed accessories. Ape-hanger bars, LED indicators and Fox adjustable rear shocks are on the options list, along with customised luggage and heated grips.

The Bobber Black starts at £11,000 more than the standard Bobber, and apart from the colour scheme you get extras such as unique wheels, the uprated Brembo braking system, LED headlight and cruise control.

This sets the flagship edition apart from the already head-turning standard model, in a way which must appeal to fans of cruisers and custom bikes. Yet mechanically it's based on the proven and popular Bonneville range, with some of the most sophisticated riding technology available.



The riding position is classic – you're upright, with a straight back

British Motor Museum to host Old Ford Rally

The British Motor Museum will host the 10th Old Ford Rally, the biggest rally of old Fords in the UK, on Sunday, July 15.

Classic Ford fans will be able to see around 400 classic Fords including commercials, tractors and vehicles with a Ford engine built up to 1990 – showcasing the incredible range of vehicles produced by one of the world's biggest manufacturers.

Visitors will be able to see a huge range from Model T's to the cars of the pre-war austerity years plus agricultural vehicles, Thames and Ford commercial vehicles as well as the more luxurious post-war Zephyr, Zodiac and Granada.

There will also be the Mk1 and Mk2 Cortina, Anglia, and Escorts as well as the Capri from the 1960s – mid 1980s.

There will be an outdoor autojumble for those looking for vital parts to complete their restoration projects and an arena with live displays and commentary throughout the day. Live music on the Sunday will be performed from singing trio 'My Favourite Things'.

The Midlands Meccano Guild will also be featuring an exhibition of hand built models on display within the museum alongside some indoor traders selling models. Visitors will have full access to



Classic Fords from the days of the Model T right through to the Cortinas from the 1980s will be on show

the museum, the Collections Centre, the Car S.O.S exhibition, as well as the show outside. Tom Caren, show manager at the museum said: "The Old Ford Rally is

a great event and incredibly popular with fans of this legendary marque. Anyone who loves old Ford vehicles is guaranteed an enjoyable day out".

To find out more about the British Motor Museum visit the website at www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk or call 01926 641188.

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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £795. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Car Boot Sales

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sunday 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449 DY6 0AA. 0771064490 www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

Caravans Wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
"CASH" "WAITING"
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

Caravans/Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 55x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433.

SIX BERTH

ABI STATIC CARAVAN
Sleeps 6.
2-bed. 2 bathrooms.
DG.
CH.
Excellent condition.
Sited on 5' Park,
3 miles from Bromyard.
Two fishing pools.
Dog friendly.
£15,000.
0121 550 2406.

SIX BERTH

COMPASS VENTURE

544
2010. 4-berth.
Fixed bed. Sunroof.
All mod cons.
Awning plus winter cover.
Many extras.
Excellent condition.
£6,900.
01299 253263.

ECCLES JADE ELITE

Two Berth Caravan
All amenities.
Ideal for new caravanners
£1,500.
01384 423758 or
07828 524802.

ISABELLA CAPRI LUX CARAVAN AWNING

Size 1055, very good condition. Professionally extended from 975 to 1055. Carbon ex frame, full awning, green, curtains, skirt, wheel cover, pegs.
£475.
VANGO BRAEMAR 280
Inflatable awning, very good condition.
£325.
Collect only, Bridgnorth.
01746 761161.

Holiday Home for sale - 2017 Willerby Wrekin

BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.
Call Ron or Margaret
01743 885080
www.severnvalleyholiday.co.uk

SWIFT CORNICHE

Two berth, with Motomover, full awning, all accessories, good condition, solar panel. Bereavement causes sale.
Ready to go.
£2,150 ono.
Telephone 01922 638667.

STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE

Pemberton Elite
32ft x 12ft, 6 berth.
Two bedrooms, double glazed, site fees paid till 2019, gas checked, own fishing pools, very good condition inside and out, 15 miles outside Welshpool.
£9,500.
07902 853567.

MUST BE SEEN

TALBOT AUTO SLEEPER 1992
Rebuilt engine.
New clutch and new starter motor.
Outside awning on side.
Bike rack.
12 months MoT.
Good condition for year.
£5,000 ono.
07745 026309.

VW TRANSPORTER T25 POP TOP CAMPER

Devon Conversion, B reg, 1985, good original condition, 10 months MoT. 5 new tyres and battery, low miles.
£8,500 ono.
07733 777999.

Jumble Sales / Fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday, 10th June
Next Sale: June 24th
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE, DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

Sports & Leisure

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

SET OF FOUR Lawn bowls. Drakes Pride, Size 1 heavy, hardly used, as new, still boxed. Was £140 sell £90. 01384 273877.

TABLE TENNIS robot practice partner, excellent condition, cost £700 sell £250. 01902 457389.

TABLE TENNIS TABLE full size some wear and tear. £50. 01902 457389.

holidays

Caravan Sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs, storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge, DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
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Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
"Weeks from £209 per couple"
"Weekends just £99 per couple"
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertiser that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

what's on

Antique Fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR
CORNHALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT
FRIDAY 8 JUNE
8:30 AM - 3 PM
07783 680 627

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

Furniture

DARK WOOD OVAL Table 4 chairs, £50 ono, matching glazed dresser & corner cabinet £75 both, excellent, will separate. 01902 895637

THREE SEATER SETTEE
Vale Bridgecraft, Chartwell Range, Senae Medallion.
14 months old. Cost £2450 (£1850 after discount).
£800
0121 501 1404.

Household Appliances

BEKO FRIDGE good working condition.
£30 ono.
07486 447773.
LARGE AMERICAN style, two door fridge freezer.
£250 ono.
07486 447773.

In Your Garden

A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE
Regular Mowing and Garden Maintenance. Tidy-ups. Jungles cleared and restored. New lawns laid. Fencing and Paving.
01902 683607 or 07939 634708

Allmark Landscaping and Gardening Services
• Grass Cutting • Fencing
• Hedge Cutting
• Garden Clearance
• Gravel Driveways
• Turfing and Lawns
• Gutter Cleaning
FREE QUOTES
No job too big or small!
07963 142736

CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.
Super Quality/Competitive Prices
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
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Quarry Bank DY5 2JH
01384 913422/01384 569779
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets, New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE



FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

Any gauge or age Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On. 01384 836219/07891 713547 thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES

Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Englebert and Marmod Enns. Best prices paid. Any condition. Collections bought. Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

OLD POCKET and wrist watches wanted, all conditions, also members clearances, parts, etc. 01746 765278. 07773 345218.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128K+ 2 computer wanted also any old Crash or your Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

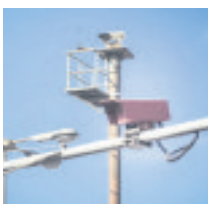
Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras. TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

SOUTH STAFFS BUILDERS
OVER 30 YEARS EXP
GARDEN WALLS, SLABBING,
CONSERVATORY BASES, PORCHES ETC.
07890 628868

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Electrical Services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc.
All domestic and commercial work.
07786 858977/01902 846167.

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £795
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 472641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES
AND SHEDS RUBBISH
REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

Painters/Decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN: Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 828534, 01902 891535.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Rubbish Removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed/Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Skip Hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

KIND HOMES WANTED
JACKO, five year old handsome black and white Border Collie.

CHIHUAHUA, little boy, five months old, light cream.

MADDIE, mature Collie Cross Spaniel.

BRACKEN, black and white Border Collie, 8 years old.

FRED, handsome black and white Border Collie.

JESSIE, 6 year old Bichon cross Jack Russell girl.

Special home wanted for young, very timid Border Collie girl, approx 2 years old.

For more information on any of these dogs call 01588 676106.

6 Property

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

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Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call **01562 277 067**
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

7 Jobs

Courses

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED
We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SIA)
Call **01299 879 015**
Email enquires@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.co.uk

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

CODSALL Small 3-bed cottage/chalet to rent, £145pw inclusive. Suit single person male or female or couple. 07795 064413.

WILLENHALL, luxury room, furnished, working person, £50pw. Telephone 07401 089298.

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 25-26 July & 17-18 November

Learn how to take blood ...

TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

Introduction to Phlebotomy

- TWO DAY COURSE - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info, or to book online: **www.geopace.com**

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS

WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO

1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING

Where we find out about you!

2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING

The important bit.

3. AUDIO PRODUCTION

Music or voice over?

4. POST PRODUCTION

Where the finishing touches happen.

5. VIDEO ADVERTISING

Want even more exposure?



CALL 01902 319730

Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising

MNA DIGITAL

Employment Wanted

BUILDERS LABOURER requires work, can plaster, own transport. 07415 653181.

EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER requires employment, any type of brick work. 07534 767256 / 07341 021774.

QUALIFIED TOOLMAKER

City and Guilds. Requires work. Will consider self employed, own transport, days or shifts. 07415 653181.

8

Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

IMMACULATE

AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE

Blue, blue hood, tan leather interior, New cam belt and water pump fitted.

MoT'd, low mileage.

£1,795 or sensible offers. 07948 146611.



BMW Z4

2006, 54,000 miles, silver, 2.0 litre petrol, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, cruise control, alloys, stereo, CD, leather interior. Very good condition. £5,500 ono. 07407 733119.



CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6HDI

63 reg, new MoT, new service/tyres, 74,000 miles. £3,500 ono. Telephone 01902 682321 or 07778 089001.



FIAT 500

2011, 55,600 miles, green metallic, EW, stop/start, AC, Bluetooth, usb, glass roof, CD player, CL, MOT, 1 previous owner, alloys, tinted rear windows, spare wheel, tool kit, FSH.

£4,200 ono.

07918 621300 (no text)

IDEAL FIRST CAR

FIAT PANDA

2010, 53,000 miles, two former keepers, service history, MoT December 2018. £1,650 07923 132859.

MUST BE SEEN

FIAT PANDA

2010, 53,000 miles, two former keepers, service history, £30 per year road tax. MoT December 2018. £1,650 07923 132859.



LEXUS LS400

1992, grey. Beautiful condition with the usual Lexus refinements. Drives as a Lexus should and has an MoT until Oct 2018.

£1,950.

07853 456878.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

MERCEDES C2 20CDI COUPE

2003, 36,000 miles (Low mileage). Silver metallic. FSH. One owner from new. MoT. Excellent condition inside and out. Private Reg. £2,650. 01902 766797 / 07817 507294.

MUST BE SEEN

MERCEDES E2 20 AVANTE GARDE

2004, 54 plate. 71,600 miles (Low Mileage). FSH. MoT'd December. Silver metallic. Superb condition in and out. £3,500. 01902 766797 / 07817 507294.

MUST BE SEEN

MINI COOPER AUTOMATIC

07 reg. 1600CC. FSH. Mot Jan 2019. Very clean. 69,000 miles. Silver and black. Very clean body work. £3,450. 0781 4447682.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 207 1.4 ENVY

3 door hatchback. Metallic Blue. 35,000 miles. Taxed and MoT'd. Recent Service. FSH. £3,250. 07802 514701.

AUTOMATIC

SKODA FABIA 3

Silver, 59 Reg., only 50,000 miles, automatic, fsh, factory extras, one lady owner, MoT to November.

£3,250.

01746 718931

or

07510 889233.



VAUXHALL CORSA SXI

2007, 47,700 Miles, 1364cc abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, MoT, central locking, pas, Alloys. very good condition.

£1,699 ono

07879 403302.



VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN

2007, 64,500 Miles, gray, abs, electric windows, central locking, pas, long mot,half leather seats alloys, very good condition.

£1,599 ono

07879 403302.

Cars Under £1500



FIAT PANDA

07, 1.1, MoT'd, 4dr, low miles, 77,000 miles, very clean throughout. £1,100 ono. 01384 251328. 07972 169554.



FORD FIESTA 1.4

3-door hatchback, 2004, MOT 2019, immaculate light green, air conditioning, electric windows, reliable, good runner, garaged.

£750

07771 428793.

View Birmingham.

BARGAIN

FORD KA

1200cc, 2007 plate. Full MoT, low miles. New clutch fitted, two owners. Lovely condition, £895. 07412 878308.



FORD KA

Yellow, 57 Reg., 43,000 miles, perfect condition, two owners. £500 o.n.o. 07775 608505.



PEUGEOT 407

1998, 58,000 Miles, Blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, alarm, MOT, central locking, one owner, pas, sunroof, Alloys, Stereo, CD,

£300 ono

07934471315



ROVER 45 CLASSIC

2004, 54 reg, 34,000 miles, red, air bag, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof. Future classic Rover.

£995 ono.

07462 693134.

BARGAIN

SEAT IBIZA

07 reg. 123,000 miles. Very good condition.

Alloys.

12 months MoT.

£800 ono.

07424 525838.

FOR A QUICK SALE

VAUXHALL ASTRA

5dr hatchback, 1600cc, 2003, MOT till August, silver, mileage approx 75,000, petrol, good, clean and reliable Family car only

£595 ono,

for quick sale, any trial.

07928 679949 /

01902 262001.



VW POLO 1.2 E

3 door hatchback. 2004. Red. Petrol. Manual. MoT May 19. Good condition. Great first car. £1,195 ono.

07871 521216/01562 911634.

Motorbikes



SUZUKI SV650S

2014, MoT, fsh, 1,020 miles, new battery, £3,200.

07770 713864 or 01902 791570.

Scrap Vehicles

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. **NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD** Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

mainline
Salvage & Recovery

- ★ SCRAP CARS WANTED
- ★ FREE COLLECTION
- ★ TOP PRICES PAID

Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks

1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS

Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid, HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

spares & accessories

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

9

Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10

Personals

General

BURIAL PLOT two Interments, Bushbury Cemetery, new 2012. £1,890 ono. 07791 621118.

Personal

100's of lonely women seeking men for casual dates & more, easy / discreet. Call NOW 07008 026348.

18+ SWAP NUMBERS with local HOTTIES seeking Adult Fun! 01902 489 181/ bt: 07860 021670



CLASSIC GUY, 54 SLIM, 5FT 10INS

Black hair, brown eyes. Loving, kind, caring, sincere, easy going, romantic, sensitive, spiritual, friendly. Own business. Looking for a female soulmate to share my life with. Age unimportant. Single Moms welcome. Box Number P21205, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

"But who knows maybe we'll be perfect for each other" give Attitude a chance to see if they can help you find a friend who may turn into a partner.
Ring us on
0121-520-3715
a good place to start!

LOOKING FOR TALL DARK HAired FELLA FROM HALESOWEN

Maybe late 40's?

Who accompanies his mom on 2 Easter trips to Torquay / Devon, staying at the Nethway Hotel, travelling with Green Line Coaches.

Blonde lady would like to meet up, please get in touch!

Box Number P21213,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL



Place your items for sale with great offers from the Express & Star and reach over half a million people*.

We don't have any hidden fees, expensive delivery charges or commission payments - just a great service, at great value for money enabling you to buy and sell locally.

Contact us today to place your advert

TELEPHONE - 01902 317878

ON LINE - bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10.2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, Sell Local

Classified Ads

Most ads are legal, decent, honest and truthful.

In 2016, the ASA removed 4,824 that weren't.



Speedway stars parade in front of the many fans



Loyal – fans turn out in force to support riders



Ron and Lynn Chadbone and Keith Couldrey



Lloyd 'Sprouts' Elder at the open meeting in 1928

Spluttering start but still on track after 90 years

SPEEDWAY at Monmore Green has revved past the 90-year mark. The stadium first became home to speedway in May 1928 but got off to a spluttering start when one bike failed to start.

A crowd flocked to see the first big clash between Englishman Ivor Creek and American Lloyd 'Sprouts' Elder but the engine on Elder's machine refused to fire.

However, not one to let the crowd down, Elder borrowed Creek's bike to put in some spectacular demonstration laps.

Wolverhampton got a taste for the roar of the engines and since then riders have clocked up countless laps of the Monmore track. And 90 years later fans turned out recently to mark 90 years of speedway in the city watching Wolves beat Poole 46-44.

The first time a Wolverhampton team actually raced around the track was in July 1929 against Warrington and Wolverhampton-born Tommy Deadman, who was employed by the Sunbeam Factory and was the biggest star at the time.

Merged

Then, after two mediocre seasons and poor crowds, they closed for 20 years.

It was revived again in 1951 but the Wasps, as they were then known, only won a miserable five meetings out of their 36 league encounters and finished at the bottom of the table.

Down the road, Cradley Heathens lost £6,000 during the 1953 season and were at risk of folding but instead merged with the Wasps. The team was led by Brian Shepherd before he retired and then Harry Bastable but he switched to Birmingham so he could ride at a higher level.

Racing stopped again at the stadium in 1954. There was another seven years of silence at Monmore until speedway was relaunched in 1961 with the new Wolves team in the second tier of British speedway. The team were Provincial League winners in 1963.

But that same year devastation hit when the stands caught fire, resulting in the track's closure and major renovation as a new stand was built.

In 1965, the Provincial League and the National League merged, putting Wolves into top-tier racing

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by Charlotte Callear

In 1965, the Provincial League and the National League merged, putting Wolves into top-tier racing for the first time

for the first time – and they have remained there ever since except for three years in the early 1980s.

Many legends have raced around the track, from Ole Olsen to 'Sudden' Sam Ermolenko and Tai Woffinden.

Olsen arrived at Monmore Green at the start of 1970 and won the World Championship final in 1971 and 1975 but the team did not finish any higher than seventh in the league during his time at the club. That was in 1973.

In the same year, the club raced against Leicester and won the Midland Cup final.

Injuries

Olsen made 179 appearances and scored a total of 2,248 points. In 1986, Wolves signed American Ermolenko who went on to become the club's all-time leading scorer and won a world title in 1993. Chris Van Straaten took over the club and they climbed to third place in the British League in 1986.

Tragedy has also struck the venue with the deaths of riders such as Gary Peterson during the 1975 Midland Cup final and severe injuries suffered by Swedish rider Fredrik Lindgren who suffered head, neck and back injuries in August, 2011.

In 2001, they were sponsored for the first time by Parry's International who back them to this day.

The team have enjoyed their most successful period over recent years, becoming Elite League champions in 2002, 2009 and 2016.



All action – Monmore Green in Wolverhampton

Tennis scheme gives advantage to players

A REVOLUTIONARY organisation is bucking the trend in the West Midlands as national participation in sports declines.

Thanks to Local Tennis Leagues (LTL), adults have all standards have the chance to play friendly, competitive tennis on public courts.

Across Britain there are nearly 200 leagues open to men and women and last year more than 8,000 people took part, playing in excess of 30,000 matches.

In the West Midlands alone there are 11 leagues, including in Dudley, Lichfield & Burntwood and Wolverhampton. Local Tennis Leagues have spearheaded a sporting renaissance in local parks. It said what were often 'Cinderella courts' – left behind and forgotten – were now thriving again.

Leagues are open to adults over the age of 18, and a round – lasting eight weeks – costs £18.

To find out more or to join a Local Tennis League in the West Midlands visit www.localtennisleagues.com/westmidlands

Black Country home to judo headquarters

THE British Judo Association is moving its headquarters to the Black Country as talks continue over holding the sport at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The organisation is moving up to 30 of its staff from Loughborough Technology Centre to Kudhail House, on the Birmingham Road, Walsall. It moves operations closer to the British Judo Centre of Excellence, at the University of Wolverhampton campus in Gorway Road in Walsall.

There are also plans for judo to be held at the centre for the Commonwealth Games. It could see a new arena built for the sport.

British Judo Association chief executive Andrew Scouler said: "It has long been our ambition to have all staff based in a centralised location. With the proposed move to Kudhail House nearing completion, it promises to be an exciting future for the association."

The marketing and communications was the first to move to the new office. The remainder of the team will come over the next few months.

Williams tops bill at new fight night venue

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Kyle Williams tops the bill on BCB Promotions' 'Emerging Stars' boxing show this weekend. He will fight defending champion Thomas Essomba over 10 rounds for the English bantamweight title.

Saturday's show will go ahead at Willows Banqueting Suite, Bath Street, Willenhall, after the original venue, Wolverhampton's Starworks Warehouse, was hit by a fire.

The show had then been moved to Wolverhampton University but has been moved to Willenhall and will now go ahead as planned.

The packed undercard features Antony Woolery, Lauren Johnson, Levi Ferguson, Sean Davis, Craig Morris, Damian Kiwior, Connor Parker, and Connor Lee.

Doors open at 6pm, with the first bell at 7. Tickets are £40, or £45 on the door. VIP ringside passes are £65.

To buy, contact any of the participating the boxers via Facebook or visit boxingtickets.com.



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Heathens in demolition over Buxton

CRADLEY'S class of 2018 romped to the club's biggest win in almost four years with a 68-22 demolition of Buxton on Monday night.

The Motor Market Heathens were always major favourites for the clash with the visitors severely depleted through injury. And they dominated from start to finish as they returned to the top of their National Trophy group.

Heathens got their night off to the perfect start, opening with four, 5-1 maximums. In fact, they only failed to claim a race winner in one single heat, when Buxton skipper Tom Woolley took the chequered flag in heat seven.

Kyle Bickley stormed to a 15-point maximum – his second unbeaten meeting in succession, while Drew Kemp was beaten just once all night.

Skipper Adam Roynon led by example with a paid maximum of his own and Alfie Bowtell hit double figures for a third straight fixture, despite riding round for third in heat 13 with a slow puncture.

Chris Widman was a part of three maximums and Jason Edwards had a solid night in his first meeting in the main body of the side.

Heathens now lead the way on 14 points. Home and away meetings against rivals Birmingham are to come, but first they face a pivotal trip to Leicester to face Coventry on Sunday.

Cradley 68: Drew Kemp 17, Kyle Bickley 15, Adam Roynon 12+3, Alfie Bowtell 10+2, Chris Widman 8+3, Jason Edwards 6+2, Bradley Andrews R/R.
Buxton 22: Tom Woolley 8, Ben Wilson 7, Ben Woodhull 3, Lewis Whitmore 2, Luke Whitehead 1, Kieran Douglas 1, David Wallinger R/R.

Himley given the boot by bottom side Wellington

HIMLEY crashed to a seven-wicket defeat at bottom of the table Wellington in Birmingham League Division One.

A devastating spell of four wickets for three runs from left-arm spinner Simon Khomari, supported by 3-20 from Jack Twigger sent Himley tumbling to 62 all out in 44.1 overs. An unbeaten 21 from wicket-keeper Charlie Mackleworth steered Wellington to their first win.

Jamie Harris (89) and Masharraf Shazad (45 no) saw Halesowen to 203-7 but William Masinghe (70), Waqar Ahmed (49) and Sulaiman Hussein (48 no) helped Leamington to a four-wicket win with nearly four overs remaining. Eddie Rhodes took 3-49 for Halesowen.

Division Three table-toppers Stourbridge picked up their fifth win in six games over Lichfield. Jack Warren (58) top scored as Lichfield posted 193-9 at Ambleside with three wickets each for spinners Dwayne Crossgill and Jujar Johal. Johal, also ended unbeaten on 80 as Stourbridge romped to a nine-wicket victory with an unbroken 121 second wicket stand between Johal and Matt Bradley (67 not out).

Youngsters' dream day at Twickenham



Stourbridge players with Lewis Moody

YOUNGSTERS from Stourbridge Rugby Club enjoyed a memorable day at Twickenham for the Aviva Premiership final.

Thanks to their involvement with the testimonial season of the Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup, the under-12s headed to rugby HQ where they shared the turf with World Cup winners Lewis Moody and Jason Robinson.

That came after they secured their spot at the showpiece event at the Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup festival hosted by Worcester Warriors.

Their reward included the chance to watch Exeter Chiefs and Saracens battle it out for the title as well as meeting with former England stars Moody and Robinson pre-match.

Stourbridge were one of 24 under-11 and under-12 teams in attendance for the final.

Stourbridge player Tate Skinner, a pupil at Old Swinford School, was additionally awarded the honour of being his team's Most Valuable Player, and the 12-year-old admitted the whole day had been one to savour.

TRIBUTES TO DK STALWART

TRIBUTES have been paid to a rugby stalwart who spent four decades at Dudley Kingswinford.

Graham Robbins spent more than 40 years involved with DK in various roles as a player, chairman and then president.

The proud Welshman, described as 'the life and soul' of the club, passed away on May 29 following an illness.

Rugby secretary Pete Edmonds said grandfather-of-five Mr Robbins would be greatly missed by all involved with the club.

Mr Edmonds said: "Graham was the life and soul of the club – a massive part of it. He was originally a player, served as chairman and moved to be president.

"He will be very sadly missed and was one of those people who was the face of DK when you went down to the club. Everyone at the club will miss his smiling face and him telling us about how his grandchildren are getting on."

Native

Mr Robbins, who lived in Kingswinford, leaves behind his wife Joan, children Darren and Nicola and grandchildren Sophie, Tom, Jack, Harvey, and Zach.

He worked in the steel industry, moving from his native Wales to South Africa before settling in the Black Country in the early 1970s.

A club statement said: "Graham was one of those guys that you immediately associated with DK, and his presence will be missed at first team games, both by the DK stalwarts and the committee men from all the clubs we currently play.

"Always a true rugby man many a memory of Graham will come to those who accompanied him on club tours prior to the leagues. He even took his kit on the 1991 tour to the Isle of Man, and played stand off for the Wanderers.

"Graham's memory will burn bright at Heathbrook."



Graham Robbins, centre, with ex-internationals Jonathan Davies and Phil Vickery

Hot conditions add to test of fitness

WITH very little on the calendar at the weekend it was left to two of the clubs racing ladies to fly the flag for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club by taking part in The Race on the Edge, a nine-mile race over undulating trails from Much Wenlock, Shropshire.

Advertised as a challenging off-road multi-terrain race with a hilly profile, competitors could anticipate some lung bursting climbs – and the warm and sunny conditions only added to the test of fitness.

Daniel Connolly was first home for Bridgnorth RC in 54.36, ahead of Wolverhampton & Bilston's Dan Maskew in 57.34 and Olly Laws of Newham in 58.20.

In the ladies' race Rachel Parker of Mercia claimed victory in 64.16, from Fern Cotteroll of Ludlow in 64.27 and Lisa Laws in 70.36.

DK's Helen Tromans claimed 48th overall, fifth lady and first in her age group in a time of 72.43 and Hannah McGuire stopped the clock on 88.30 to finish in 122nd place.

Duo second in battle of endurance

THE Double Two Racing team earned a second-place finish in the latest No Limits Endurance series at Donington Park.

Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter drafted in support rider and Cup 600 championship leader, Scott Stevens for round three of the 600 Class – but from the off things began to go wrong.

Wright, from Tividale, said: "Scott was to qualify first but realised he had left his armband back at the sprint rider pits, so grabbed a pushbike to fetch it. But qualifying was seconds from getting under way so I hurriedly got ready and out on to the track."

Wright posted a time good enough for first in class and 15th overall, but Scott then started suffering severe gearbox issues, which meant Wright and Blackheath's Siviter would have to do the full six hours between them.

Wright started and maintained first in class, extended by Siviter. A two-lap lead had opened up before major issues followed. The bike cut out three times trying to leave pit lane as the CO2 sensor kicking in due to a blocked air filter.

As Wright tried to make up time, a bike spilled oil in front of him and he was spat back upright by the bike. He then avoided crashing again before the red flag came out.

Still holding third place and with the track rideable again, Wright went out then Siviter dragged the team back up to second. Wright tried to catch first place but the gap was too big and Double Two Racing finished 60 seconds behind.

Evans lines up for a shot at the men

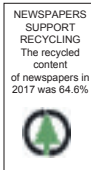
DUDLEY'S Reanne Evans is joining a new mixed-gender snooker tour for the 2018/19 season.

Ranked number two in women's snooker, Evans has been nominated to join the Challenge Tour alongside world champion and world number one, Ng On Yee, from Hong Kong.

They each have the opportunity to compete in 10 new mixed gender events which carry a total prize fund of £100,000 as well as two tour cards for next season's professional circuit.

Evans is a multiple women's world champion who has beaten men on the professional circuit before.

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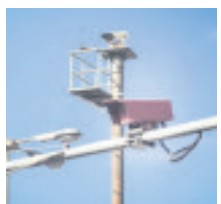
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9

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10

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD Kuga 1.5 EcoBoost (150PS) - with Stop/Start, M6: Urban 35.8 (7.9), Extra Urban 52.3 (5.4), Combined 44.8 (6.3), CO₂ emissions 145(g/km). Lowest: FORD All New C-Max 1.5 TDCi Stop-Start (105PS), M6: urban 65.7 (4.3), extra urban 80.7 (3.5), combined 74.3 (3.8). Official CO₂ emission 99g/km. The mpg figures quoted, sourced from official EU regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience. †Full written details and quotations available on request from a Ford Authorized participating Dealer of Motability Operations Limited. Through the Motability Scheme the vehicles are leased from Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. *Terms and conditions apply.

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11 (11) Audi TT 2.0 TDI Quattro Sport (2011) 2 Door Roadster, White, 42897 Miles	£13,000
15 (15) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Red 3dr Hatchback, Race red, 32591 Miles	£10,000
15 (64) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec Powershift Auto 5dr Hatchback, Blue, 21039 Miles	£9,500
10 (60) Mercedes-Benz B Class B180 CDI Sport CVT Auto 5dr Hatchback, Blue, 43015 Miles	£6,500
11 (11) Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec S 3dr Hatchback, Blue, 50682 Miles	£6,000
13 (63) Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 ecoFLEX Energy [AC] 5dr Hatchback, Flame red, 36042 Miles	£5,500
17 (67) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line, SAT NAV (F) 3dr Hatch, Grey, 3954 Miles	£15,499
17 (67) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line, SAT NAV (F) 3dr Hatch, Grey 5569 Miles	£15000
17 (67) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec, SAT NAV, CITY PACK (F) 5dr Hatch, White, 27 Miles	£13500
15 (65) Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium Powershift Auto, City Pack, DAB (F) 5dr, Black, 12212 Miles	£12,000
14 (64) Mini Hatchback 1.6 Cooper Graphite 3 Door Hatchback, Dark Silver, 22042 Miles	£11,500
16 (16) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S - SAT NAV 3 Door Hatchback, Blue, 17093 Miles	£11000
16 (16) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S - SAT NAV (F) 3 Door Hatch, White, 10268 Miles	£11000
15 (15) Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium Powershift Auto, DAB, 6-spd (F) 5 Door Hatch, Blue, 20511 Miles	£11000
16 (16) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Red DAB 140PS (F) 3 Door Hatch, Red, 18297 Miles	£10500
16 (66) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec, Stunning Candy Red (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Red, 14491 Miles	£10500
15 (65) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium, Power Fold Mirrors (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Grey, 4145 Miles	£10500
17 (67) Ford Ka+ 1.2 85 Zetec, DAB+Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Smoke grey, 1261 Miles	£10000
16 (16) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr, DAB+BT (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Moon dust silver, 13891 Miles	£10000
15 (15) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Black 3 Door Hatchback, Panther black, 26672 Miles	£10000
15 (64) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Black, DAB, Contrast Roof (F) 3 Door, Black, 13059 Miles	£10000
15 (15) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec S, Bluetooth, Rear Sensors (F) 3 Door Hatch, Blue, 10992 Miles	£10000
15 (65) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec S, Keyless Entry, City Pack (F) 5 Door Hatch, Grey, 27084 Miles	£10000
15 (65) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec S, DAB+Bluetooth (F) 3 Door Hatchback, Black, 7028 Miles	£10000
14 (14) Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium Powershift Auto, DAB, 6-spd (F) 5 Door Hatch Silver, 34802 Miles	£10000
14 (64) Mini Hatchback 1.2 One, Pepper Pack, Upgraded Alloys (F) 3 Door Hatch, Volcanic Orange, 33094 Miles	£10000
15 (15) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec S, Bluetooth, (F) 3 Door Hatchback, Black, 12038 Miles	£9500
15 (64) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec Powershift Auto 5 Door Hatchback, Blue, 21042 Miles	£9500
15 (15) Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite, Front & Rear parking sensors (F) 5 Door Hatch, White, 19416 Miles	£9500
17 (17) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec, DAB+Bluetooth, Low Miles (F) 3 Door Hatch, Blue, 3838 Miles	£9000
15 (65) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5 Door Hatchback, Black, 17014 Miles	£9000
15 (65) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr, DAB+BT (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Frozen white, 25899 Miles	£9000
15 (15) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec, £0 Road Tax, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, White, 14320 Miles	£9000
16 (65) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr, DAB, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, White, 25676 Miles	£8500
14 (14) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5 Door Hatchback, Moon dust silver, 33039 Miles	£8500
13 (63) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr, Bluetooth, £0 Road Tax (F) 5 Door Hatch, Silver, 26345 Miles	£8500
14 (14) Ford Fiesta B-MAX 1.0 EcoBoost 120 Titanium, Sony DAB (F) 5 Door MPV, White, 32815 Miles	£8499
15 (15) Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr, Bluetooth, £30 Road Tax (F) 5 Door Hatch, Silver, Insurance Group 7, 22742 Miles	£8000
15 (15) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Red, 29980 Miles	£8000
14 (14) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5 Door Hatchback, Race red, 20742 Miles	£8000
14 (14) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec, Factory Rear Sensors (F) 5 Door Hatch, Moon dust silver, 15068 Miles	£8000
14 (64) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec 5 Door Hatchback, Grey, 2349 Miles	£8000
14 (14) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Moon dust silver, 3678 Miles	£8000
13 (63) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec, Bluetooth, Low road Tax (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Race red, 22486 Miles	£8000
13 (13) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 5 Door Hatchback, Blue, 55039 Miles	£8000

MODEL	NOW
13 (13) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium, Power Fold Mirrors (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Black, 38350 Miles	£8000
15 (15) Ford Ka 1.2 Titanium [Start Stop], Rear Sensors (F) 3 Door Hatchback, White, 16884 Miles	£7500
15 (15) Hyundai i10 1.0 Premium 5 door, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Black, 24456 Miles	£7500
15 (15) Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Ltd Edition 5dr, Black Alloys, Roof, Mirror Caps (F) 3 Door Hatch, Red, 15275 Miles	£7500
14 (64) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec, Low Road Tax (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Silver, 20055 Miles	£7500
14 (14) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Race red, 32387 Miles	£7500
14 (64) Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SE, Touch&Connect Sat Nav (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Flame red, 18897 Miles	£7500
13 (13) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec, £0 Road Tax, Bluetooth (F) 3 Door Hatch, Silver, 31510 Miles	£7500
12 (62) Mini Hatchback 1.6 Cooper 3dr, Massive Specification, Full Leather, Upgrade Alloys (F) 3 Door Hatchback, Silver, 53874 Miles, ABS, Air Conditioning, Radio/CD, Traction Control	£7500
16 (16) Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Style, Heated Screen & City Pack (F) 3 Door Hatchback, Red, 29522 Miles	£7000
14 (14) Ford Ka 1.2 Metal [Start Stop] Special Edition (F) 3 Door Hatchback, White, 13697 Miles	£7000
14 (64) Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXi [AC] 5 Door Hatchback, Silver, 25144 Miles	£7000
13 (13) Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Grey, 33792 Miles	£7000
13 (63) Vauxhall Adam 1.4i Glam, Panoramic Roof, (F) 3 Door Hatchback, Red, 24238 Miles	£7000
14 (14) Ford Kia 1.2 Zetec [Start Stop], Bluetooth + USB (F) 3 Door Hatchback, White, 14758 Miles	£6500
13 (62) FIAT 500 0.9 TwinAir Street, Sunroof, Bluetooth, (F) 3 Door Hatchback, Black, 21920 Miles	£6500
13 (63) Ford Fiesta 1.5 TDCI Zetec, City Pack (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Frozen white, 51061 Miles	£6500
11 (60) Fiesta 1.6 Titanium, Powerfold Mirrors, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatch, Silver, Ins Group 6, 33023 Miles	£6500
13 (13) Ford Kia 1.2 Zetec, BLUETOOTH, 3 Door Hatchback, White, 42339 Miles	£5500
11 (11) Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec [Start Stop], Heated Front Screen, (F) 3 Door Hatchback, Moonlight, 55719 Miles	£4500
08 (08) Honda Jazz 1.4 i-DSi SE, Loads of interior space (F) 5 Door Hatch, Blue, Ins Group 3, 62248 Miles	£3500
17 (67) Ford Focus 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line Navigation, Sync 3, Rear Camera (F) 5 Door White, 2625 Miles	£17000
17 (67) Ford Focus 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec Edition, SAT NAV, Rear Park (F) 5 Door Hatch, White, 3127 Miles	£16000
17 (17) Ford Focus 1.5 TDCI 120 ST-Line 5 Door Hatchback, BLUE, 7732 Miles	£15000
16 (66) Ford Focus 1.5 TDCI 120 Titanium, Sat Nav, Rear Sensors** (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Grey 21115 Miles	£12000
15 (15) Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite, Front & Rear park sensors (F) 5 Door Hatch, White, 19416 Miles	£9500
12 (12) Ford Focus 2.0 TDCI 163 Titanium X Powershift Auto, MASSIVE SPECIFICATION, (F) 5 Door Hatch Brown, 25409 Miles, rear privacy glass, Reversing camera, Satellite Navigation	£9000
15 (15) Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Excite 5dr, Bluetooth (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Grey, 25044 Miles	£8500
13 (13) Ford Focus 2.0 TDCI Titanium, DAB Radio+Bluetooth, Sony Stereo** (F) 5 Door Hatch, Grey, 27598 Miles	£8500
14 (64) Ford Focus 1.6 125 Zetec Powershift Auto, Appearance Pack (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Red 28149 Miles	£7500
12 (62) Ford Focus 1.0 125 EcoBoost Zetec, Appearance Pack (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Red, 37298 Miles	£7500
12 (12) Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec, DAB + Bluetooth (F) key 47 5 Door Hatchback, Frozen white, 49673 Miles	£7500
11 (11) Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr, Air Conditioning, Heated Screen (F) 5 Door Hatch, Ins Grp 11, 25013 Miles	£7000
11 (11) Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V SE Auto, Front and Rear Park (F) 5 Door Hatch, Green, Ins Grp 4, 31829 Miles	£6000
16 (16) Ford Focus 2.0 TDCI 185 ST-3, Tangerine Scream (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Yellow, 20898 Miles	£18500
15 (15) Ford Fiesta 1.6 EcoBoost ST-3 3 Door Hatchback, Frozen white, 34501 Miles	£15000
13 (63) Ford Fiesta 1.6 EcoBoost ST-2 3 Door Hatchback, Frozen white, 33442 Miles	£10500
11 (11) Volvo C30 2.0 R Design, Sports looks (F) 3 Door Coupe, Black sapphire, Ins Group 11, 43241 Miles	£7500
16 (66) Hyundai Tucson 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive SE, Navigation 2WD, Rear Camera, Heated Seats (F) 5 Door Hatchback, Gold, 17684 Miles	£16000
15 (15) Ford Kuga 2.0 TDCI 150 Titanium X 2WD - BIG SPECIFICATION (F) 5 Door Hatchback Blue, 62066 Miles, keyless and hands free power tailgate, Climate Control, Cruise Control	£14000

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Coming soon to TWall Ford



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The All-New Fiesta ST is even more powerful and responsive. The handling is even more focussed and precise. With the ability to customise and personalise the car like never before, the end result is a performance car engineered to put a smile on your face every time you take the wheel. So get ready to enjoy the ride.

All-new car, all-new engine

Powering the All-New Fiesta ST is a brand-new 3-cylinder 1.5 EcoBoost engine, built on the core principles of enhancing fuel-efficiency without compromising performance.

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ALL-NEW FORD FIESTA ST (DUE IN JUNE) – FOR PRE ORDERS & TEST DRIVE CALL US NOW



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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD All New Focus 2.3 EcoBoost (350PS) With Stop/Start - 5 Door, M6: Urban 28.2 (10.0, Extra Urban 44.8 (6.3), Combined 36.7 (7.7), CO₂ emissions 175(g/km). Lowest: FORD All New Fiesta 1.5 TDCi (85PS) With Stop/Start - 3 Door, M6: urban 80.7 (3.5), extra urban 94.2 (3.0), combined 88.3 (3.2). Official CO₂ emission 82g/km. The mpg figures quoted, sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience. Details correct at time of publishing and are subject to change without notice. Images used for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of publication E&OE.